HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF HANSON

H I S T O R Y

O F

T H E T O W N O F H A N S O N

Hanson Town Meeting, March 2, 1959

Article XX: To see if the Town will vote to have its Selectmen appoint a committee of five (5) to make a survey of the History of Hanson and report to the Town on the ways and means of some permanent method of perserving the same.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen.

VOTED: To have the Selectmen appoint such a committee. The Committee appointed to carry out the provisions of this Article were:

Bertha H. Baresel

Elsie G. Calder

Harold W. Churchill

Harold T. Clark

Margaret E. Crossman

Russell H. Gardner

Beatrice T. Harley

Elizabeth A. Harriott

Daniel J. Lewis deceased

Robert B. Rich

INTRODUCTION

Not to know what has been transacted in former times is to continue always a child. If no use is made of the labors of past ages, the world must remain always in the infancy of knowledge.

Cicero

In a certain sense all men are historians.

Carlyle

They who live in history only seem to walk the earth again.

Longfellow

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The Hanson Historical Committee was instructed to collect and compile as much of the early history of our Town as possible without thought of editing, limiting or weighing the relative importance of individual data. This has been done, but we know there must be much more information which has not yet come to light. As this history is read by the townspeople, we are sure that the comment will occur to many: "Why didn't they include this-or-that fact, or what-so-and-so did?"

The answer to these anticipated criticisms is that no one on the Committee was aware of that event,

Introduction (Cont.)

fact or person - hidden away in family memories - and so for the benefit of future generations your Committee requests each one to write out his or her contribution - or correction - and pass it to some member of the Historical Committee. A supplemental file of such historical data will be compiled as further facts are reported. In this way some future Town Historian will be supplied with as complete information as the memories and the research of our citizens can contribute.

Collectively, the Committee believes that the study of history - local national and foreign - is an important segment of our educational system. In particular we believe that a knowledge of local history leads to a love for and a pride and interest in one's home town. This we consider a basic requirement of good citizenship, and something the youth of our Town should have always available to them. Therefore, the Committee to whom this work was entrusted feel they have rendered a worthwhile public service up to this point, and are appreciative of the opportunity given them to contribute something of value to both the present and the future citizens of Hanson.

C O N T E N T S

INDIAN HISTORY OF THIS AREA

INDIAN HISTORY OF HANSON

Introduction:

There are certain problems peculiar to any account of Indian times of a given locality which is recognized today by comparatively modern boundaries, such as those of a township as is the case here, for the original inhabitants of this region knew only the geographical bounds of sea, mountains, rivers, and the territories of other tribes which may or may not, have been friendly to them.

Then, it must be realized, their very way of life was more or less nomadic within their own territories and such bounds as they did recognize varied between several confederacies, in, our area particularly, as the political influence and strength of each group fluctuated from time to time. Also of necessity, depending upon the season and source of their food supply locally, herring (omisswog) in the spring, planting time for corn (weachamin), squash, pumpkins, beans, etc.; the seashore for clams (sagoquash), or lobsters (chugeech) and the wide beaches for gaming, then back for harvest to their Mattakeesett or "Old/fish/and planting" grounds before retiring to a protected swamp for the winter where game was ever at hand.

This coupled with the fact that they had no written language, at least until the English missionaries made translations of the "Bible" (1663) "Psalms of David" and a "Key to the Indian Language" with phonetically-devised words from the native Algonkin, makes it necessary to rely upon the

Indian History of Hanson - Introduction (Cont.)
conclusions of Archaeologists, Ethnologists' studies, andAnthropologists' appraisals from evidence remaining.

Fortunately this has its bright side as this evidence does not lie and is an open and ever-unfolding book to those qualified to interpret it. Although this was never intended to be read, yet it becomes the surest method possible with the 'tools' given us by the atomic age and does, in fact, give us now unquestioned advantage over previously written town histories long accepted as completely comprehensive.

This account will define the three culture periods individually in order to make clear and understandable the part each played in the local pre-history references to our own area striving always to keep within the somewhat limiting town bounds, following through to the last ethnic traces and supplying pictorial material relating to each of these periods.

The references and sources of this material - both documented and published, and traditional, from native sources, will be bound in the back of this article in list form.

Indian History of Hanson - "Archaic"

Difficult as it may be to realize, there were representatives of an ancient Eskimo-like culture - the early Archaic, probably of a similar origin, but arriving at a much earlier period than modern Eskimo stock - who left indisputable evidence of their occupation of sites within the present bounds of Hanson and the remarkable carbon-14 dating method, recently developed and improved, place those first Hansonites here in our own locality some 4,300 years before our time.

Their only known village stood a few miles southwest of Hanson on the near shore of the Assawampsett Pond. They are known to have cremated their dead in specially built crematories previous to burial, to have built houses of an unusual snail-shell shape - the overlaping side wall forming the doorway and placed so as to face away from the prevailing winds and containing a small fire pit close by the entrace, mosquitos evidently being as great a nusiance then as in our own times.

These dwellings were of a much larger size - 40 to 60 feet in diameter - than those of the Algonkins of later times - 18 to 20 feet in diameter being the rule - and were not stockaded as many towns of historic times, the inference here being that there were no enemies to fear as they were the sole inhabitants at the time - a Paleo people preceeded them of whom little is yet known. However, no Hanson site can be identified as Paleo. These houses were double-staked and were marvels of

engineering in that no interior support was required except in the largest dwellings. These were probably covered with the same materials - rush mats or cedar bark - as used at a later time on Algonkin wigwams. Possibly skins were used also. Their implements are mostly unique and are, thus, clues which identify their campsites from those of later occupations. The ulu or woman's knife which is called semi-lunar for its half-moon shape, the narrow full-grooved gouge, the sinker-shaped plummet - believed used as a fish lure - and the long slender, fluted and side notched spear point being trademarks of such sites. They knew nothing of the bow and arrow, but used eventually the Atlatt, a hand spear-throwing device and an improvement on the original short-handled spear.

The Hanson sites identified with these Early Archaic people are the north-western shore of Monponsett Pond, off the southern end of Pleasant Street between the Pond and the mouth of Whiteoak Brook - later called Sammy's Neck by the Bourne family - from a cellar excavation 'find' of a ulu (in Plate #1), a full-grooved gouge and a plummet. These repose, today in the large private collection of Mr. Raymond Seamans of Halifax who kindly permitted a plate to be made for this account. This was, later, one of the areas where Massasoit and his sons hunted and built their canoes.

The second such 'find' here was made by Kustav Ahola, a Finn hermit, who lived for forty years on the present site

of the new Whitman-Hanson Regional School, in an underground dugout in winter and a wigwam-like structure in summer. This produced a narrow, full-grooved gouge (Plate #1), a long narrow side-notched, fluted spear-point among other things and appeared to be a cremation burial covered with a large slab of stone, an unusual feature.

This, along with a half-portion of a ulu knife found at the South Hanson Baptist Church above Indian Head Pond by R. H. Gardner of Hanson are included in the collection of the "Pembroke Historical Society" and completes the known material relating to the Archaic period* of Hanson's History and we, now, progress, in its natural chronology, to the next period of aboriginal occupation, the Algonkin, which will divided into two phases.

*It is interesting to note that the locality including Monponsett Pond, the Great Cedar Swamp, the Stump Brook, and the Swamp (or Massapanock) into which it flows and the Robin's Pond, below, were the bed of a great post-glacial lake chain. The Monponsett and Robin's ponds being the only modern remnants.

It is to this place, the Great Cedar Swamp and Monponsett Pond, that Massasoit and his sons came in historic times to build their canoes and there is no reason to doubt that this was the result of ancient presedent.

Indian History of Hanson - "Algonkin" (Early Phase)

The early phase of this occupation appeared here some 3,500 years ago and is believed to be an early branch of the Moundbuilders of the Mississippi Valley who had reached the Great Lakes and turned eastward to the New England Coastal Region. There, over a long period of time to develop an improved culture; thus, we separate this stock into two culture periods though their ancestry is identical for the most part.

These were a large-framed broad-headed people, rather unlike the Eskimo-like longer-headed people who proceeded them. There is some reason to believe one was lighter skinned than the other as historic Indians, here, varied from dark olive to yellowish-brown in color. There are certain indications that the latter absorbed the remnants of the former as they seem, from here on, to incorporate culture-traits of both stocks.

The earliest Algonkins were responsible for the introduction of the bow and arrow, the smoking pipe, and the maize-based agriculture here in New England. This, of course, changed the entire mode of life from that previously known here. They had an agriculture for a more stable economy and, in the search for suitable material for pipe-making, stealite or soapstone was discovered leading to the first true industry ever practiced here in New England. The stone bowl industry employed for the first time both sexes in the manufacture and the system of trade established in the very extensive operation of this industry. This took them far west and south from New England

until the gradual replacement of the stone vessels, with a ceramic counterpart, issued out this vast trade system. In the meantime, they had learned to use the shellfish which were formerly unknown to them and had become isolated from other regions by the movement of the powerful and warlike Iroquois to the west and south, and the Tarratines (Abenaki) to the north - who, though of similar stock in the latter case, had held to the old nomadic life.

So began a new era in our pre-history. The 'later' Algonkin found here by the English, was the 'Historic' Indian.

A treatment of the foregoing - 'later phase' to follow must, both be presented to properly forge the 'cultural' chain of changes leading up to the final stages of aboriginal life, here which played such a vital role in our colonial establishment and development; so, in order that the chronological aspects may be clearly understood, it is presented in this form and now let us see just what did happen to the natives to change the old life and prepare them for momentous things to come.

"Algonkin" (Later Phase)

The later phase was marked by the ceramic vessels, which progressed from a pointed-based to a round-based vessel through four stages and a feudal political system based on an agricultural community of a more settled nature than formerly; paying

tribute to a Chief-Sachem and various Sub-Sachems of smaller bands.

This, beginning about 2,800 years ago and although gradual, was pronounced.

Hanson contains the old road or 'Crossway' between two such small Algonkin settlements with their cornfields and herring wiers. One at Mattakeesett (Pembroke Ponds) the other at Satuckett (Robin's Pond East Bridgewater). The Indian name of this path was 'Tunk' and was in common use as late as two generations ago, (my grandmother, Mary Eliza (Robbins) Gardner, always called Hanson 'Down Tunk' and she was born July 13, 1874 at Dames Corner - now Walkey's - and descended from the native stock). Translated it means literally Walking Wall or Bridge. Benjamin Hanks, reputed ancestor of Abraham Lincoln, once owned the southern half of lot 35 of the famed Major's Purchase, through which this 'Crossway' passed. His deed calls it 'Ye most Southerly way by ye Cedar Bridge. Later locally called 'Johnson's Landing' where hemlock and cedar logs were unloaded from ox drawn ice sleds in winter. Oldtimers still recall how the logs were laid in a criss-cross pattern and the green cedars, now mostly gone, arched so thickly overhead that it was like a tunnel on the sunniest day. Even today, if we follow this ancient path to the top of a ridge high above Poor Meadow Brook, once the back pasture of the late police chief - John Ibbitson's father, and now the property of Mr. William Stillman, just north of the present

high-tension line we find a large, whale-shaped glacial boulder into the side of which, in a saddle-like depression is worked a fine, deep and symetrical mortar-hole or Indian Mill. The one lasting monument left by early travelers through, what is now Hanson. (Plate #2) The picture shows also a stone pestle from Robin's Pond, a scant mile from the Morter Rock, which was the type of implement used in conjunction with such a mill.

One grave has been found, from this period close beside the Old Crossway where it passed the Hanks dwelling on what is now the northerly side of Main Street opposite Reed Street. This was found in 1924 during the excavation of a cellar being dug for Henry Straffin by George Sayce and produced the bones of a tall individual - judging from the leg bones and one contact vessel with the round bottom and bottle-rim belonging to the West-India rum trade.

The Hanks family must have built and lived there all unaware that almost beneath their doorstone, so to speak, slept an Indian of long ago who would remain undisturbed for 200 years.

The following verse by R. H. Gardner of Hanson traces the ancient Tunk or Indian Crossway through Hanson, was published in "The Hanson Courier".

The Ancient Path

'Tween Mattakeesett and Satucket
  Wends nor'east to sou'westward
A pathway, old as they who make it,
  The Indian Way by moccasin trod.
From the ponds where spawn the
    alewives,
  From the fields of waving corn,
Winding ó'er the upland hillsides
  Deeply in the sod 'tis worn.
Detouring for the great swamp lands
  Where thick the gloomy cedar grow,
'Cross the narrows at the island,
  The sunken logs laid row on row.
Bridgin o'er the black swamp water
  To the point across the slough,
Haunt of mink, muskrat and otter -
  Where are all these creatures now?
To the ridge above the river
  Here a resting place is found.
Corn ground in the great rock mortar
  Fed first trav'lers o'er this ground.
Now a choice to him is offered
  Who farther on this way is bound -
A canoe from here is faster
  Than by foot 'cross wooded mound.
Soon another, greater river
  Comes in view, and sweeps around
The ancient village of Satucket,
  Of it, today, no sight nor sound,
No trav'ler left who knew it wholly.
  A fading men'ry 'tis, I say,
Except when we who live beside it
  Care to dream an hour away.

"Historic Times"

We come now to the period of English settlement when there is for the first time, except for the vague Norse Sagas, a written record of the times. This must be tempered, in the case of the aboriginies, by the understanding that what was written of them was often predjudiced and at best desultory. A few

accounts, however, are unbiased and we must give those great credit.

The earliest records pertaining to what is now Hanson are the Indian Deeds of land. The first being the sale, in 1649, of Bridgewater (Satucket) by Massasoit - Great Sachem - of the Wampanoag. This included all land for seven miles in all directions from the weir. Then in June of 1650 a month after the deed was recorded at Plymouth, some Indians appeared claiming that the land actually belonged to Chickataubut, Sachem of Massachusett near Boston. It is significant that this claim was honored and the English obtained, from the claimants, a confirmatory deed for lands "northward from the south four-mile line of Bridgewater" for "ten pounds in money and one hundred acres at Poor Meadows" - partly in Hanson.

This is a graphic example of the intermediate status of Indians, politically in the Pembroke-Bridgewater area, who were on the borderline of the Massachusett - Wampanoag territory; Chickataubut having a wigwam as far south as Titicut, between Bridgewater and Middleboro and Massasoit having a wigwam at Monponsett Pond on the north, which lies partly in Hanson and just south of Hanson's border. Here the infamous capture of Massasoit's eldest son - Moonanam or Wamsutta (Alexander by English translation) occurred, helping, more than any other one incident, to open hostilities in King Phillip's War..

The former purchase (Bridgewater) was made for Duxbury but the next was the, so called 'Major's Purchase' made by Major Josiah Winslow on July 9, 1662, for himself and thirty-four others, Nathaniel Thomas Secretary of the Massachusett Sachem Wampatuck (called Josias) son of Old Chickataubut, comprising the main body of the present town of Hanson.

The Sachem reserved for his son and George Wampy 900 acres and 180 acres, respectively, "to be for the express use of the Indians and their heirs forever". This was the "thousand Acres" about the Pembroke Ponds and bounded as follows: - "Beginning at the south bound of Hanson on Indian Head Pond it followed the old road that once ran eastward around the south side of Great Sandy Bottom Pond to the brook at Furnace Pond (probably part of the 'Old Indian Crossway' previously mentioned) from which it followed the line of 1698 that divided the Mattakeesett Grant of 1662, between Duxbury and Marshfield, to a great rock on a hill just east of the Indian Settlement in 'the Fields' and thence to the mouth of the small brook which runs into the norther end of Oldham Pond". The western bound was less definite, but was probably close to the 1643 line of Old Scituate, from the mouth of Indian Head Pond, following the Indian Head Brook to Barstow's Land, which was first purchased from Wamptuck in 1668 by Cornet Robert Stetson "for the use of the Colony" and sold in 1671 to Joseph Barstow and others, but, commonly called Barstow's Land.

First sale of this land called the "Thousand Acres" to the English was made by Jeremiah Momentague and his squa to Major William Bradford on May 16, 1693 for fourteen pounds one hundred acres at Wamassakeesett Ponds bounded "South by the ponds and Northwest by the ponds and the towns of Duxbury and Marshfield, Northeast by said towns and Southest as far as will make 100 acres". Although this parcel was not a part of what later became Pembroke's West Parish, then Hanson, it began the conversion of the Indian Colony proper, into a colonial township.

Then, at Poor Meadows (the Titicutt Indian Reservation bordered the 1662 Pacheog Purchase along its entire western bound to Poor Meadows on the north) Jeremiah Momentague and his squa, "only daughter and sole heir of Josias Wampatuck" sold to Thomas Snell sixty-two of the hundred acres returned to her grandfather in 1650 by the Bridgewater purchasers "for a valuable consideration of money" on May 8, 1694.

These same Indians sold to Nathaniel Thomas of Marshfield for twelve pounds one hundred acres bordering on Indian Head River, near the first purchase of Nathaniel Thomas (250 acres purchased in 1694) where he built the first dam in the colony according to tradition and the first fishway for the passage of the alewives to Indian Head Pond in 1703. This was doubtless the first conservation measure adopted by the Colony, as a fine of five shillings each "for fish thereafter taken or killed from the dam to the sea" was levied and John Foster, John Dyer, and Richard Beeres were appointed inspectors - two Hanson firsts.

His descendants often related how the pond (Town Hall or Wampatuck Pond) filled in a single night when the dam was first built in 1695, and it seems like a reasonable tradition as compared to some others.

It is of interest to note that although portions of the 'Thousand Acres' were later sold by the heirs of Wampatuck, the greater part was not and is the only land in the Colony never legally sold by the Indian owners - the remaining Indians dying off or removing to other parts. Some traditionally came to settle in the hilly part of Tunk or Hanson and to Robin's Pond.

This brings us to another tradition, handed down in the family of Captain Joseph Smith, whose house was bought with prize money for his service in the War of Independence and is located on Maquan Street near the Pond of that name. The story being that "an Indian wigwam formerly stood where the house was later built". This story is well-remembered by Mrs. Avis Baker - wife of Guy Baker of Halifax, niece of Susan Smith - as having been told in her hearing as a girl and in that very house. It is the only mention of an Indian dwelling having stood west of the ponds within the 'Thousand Acres' and thus, within Hanson's bounds. Tradition does not name the Indian family who lived here, but as the name of Queen Patience's daugher, Abigail Quason or Quanson has the same meaning and as her daughter Suky or Suke probably married into the Josselyn family(family tradition says Suky was Samuel W. Josselyn's

second wife and Pembrok records say 'Suky Joslyn (colored woman), obviously Indian, died December 2, 1835' also her cabin and well were just west of Pembroke Center on the Josselyn Place opposite the pond we might assume that possibility. These were, by the way, the heirs of Wampatuck and would have held claim to this ground before Smith's purchase.

In 1764, Dr. John Wadsworth attended this Abigail Quason, Ruth Wampy, and Sarah Daniel for whom he prescribed thusly: "Rhubarb, Senna, Calomel, j'slap, saffron water, and crabes eyes". They evidently recovered.

Descendants of the Josselyn family, above, who lived at the old Deacon Thomas Josselyn Place on what is now Crescent Street have a tradition that this house was once saved by an Indian ancestor who lived there, from being burned by some Indians who had been sent by Tories as a result of Deacon Thomas' stand on the committee opposing the Stamp Act (Thomas Josselyn, Sr. was one of the settlers of Old Abington), evidently because she was of their own race they listened to her pleas and left the dwelling untouched. This house (who's last occupant in line, was Samuel Williams Josselyn, Sr. as blacksmith, of the original family) was later called the Fish Place and eventually moved to Barnstable intact, where it stands today; as far as the writer knows the name of Josselyn still is discernable on one of its beams.

These are but a few of the many fascinating traditions without which much of the local flavor of the early times would be lost today. The old art of perpetuating our history and folklore by recounting it from generation to generation in the time-honored fashion is fast disappearing from our changing way of life. To include some of the tales from this "Great Unwritten Book of Tradition" on these pages of a history would be perhaps just a bit presumptious; but for this fact and also that it seems possibly the last opportunity to pass these gems on to succeeding generations of readers yet unborn who would otherwise miss this sort of thing entirely and would unquestionably be the poorer for it.

Few of the native race retained their old Algonkin names into the 19th century, most taking the English names of those families who were friendly to them or for whom they were servants or slaves, particularly after King Phillip's War when many were enslaved by their captors. They were often freed upon their master's death but sometimes intermarried with negros and even whites remaining for generations with the same family. Some women and many children were taken to be apprenticed in prominent families to the age of twenty-four when they were freed almost entirely from the families of those Cape Cod Sachems who were suspected of sympathy with King Phillip's cause, and called to account at Plymouth by Governor Winslow, were without ceremony sent to the West Indies as slaves and their families disposed of as explained

above. Thus, the influx of names, formerly carried by famous Sachems resident on Cape Cod, into this region, formerly under the domination of the Massachusett.

One, Captain Samuel Williams Barker, whose wife, Patience (Stafford) Howland-Barker, is buried on the hill in the Old Cemetery at Fern Hill in Hanson date May 2, 1802, had many Indian and Negro slaves while they resided at the Old Williams Barker Estate in Scituate, some were Bristol, Jenny and London,, negros. London married an Indian named Martha Ned on March 22, 1753 and may be the Richard Lowden (this name also spelled Louden and Loudon, here) died June 30, 1823 at 89 and his wife Martha Lowden, died June 24, 1831 at 86, who are also buried here in the Old Cemetery at Fenn Hill Hanson as the descendants of Capt. Samuel (Capt. Sam'l. was cousin of Robert, Jr. Pembroke's first settler) and Patience Barker settled in Hanson and are Josselyns in the next generation. They are buried here also.

These last remnants wander like lost souls through the records of the 1700's and early 1800's. Many went to sea later and became active in the whaling industry, for which they were in great demand as boatsteerers and harpooners, leaving their families for months at a time to shift for themselves.

The last survey of "Indians of Massachusetts" by the State Commissioner, John Milton Earle was made in 1859 and 1860 and published in 1861. It says of the last remaining

Mattakeesetts; "the members of this tribe appear to be capable, intelligent, and moral and are understood to be in enjoyment of their civil rights as citizens of the State. There are known to be others than those listed living in the vicinity, but as they enjoy these rights and are no longer wards of the State, it is not deemed necessary to pursue the inquiry further"; more's the pity, as these records are scant enough at best, few being complete or connective enough to compile genealogies.

= This 1861 census found that most families of Indians or descendants of Indians living on or having claim to Indian lands at that time "knew little or nothing of their background except for the tradition that they were Indians and the fact that they possessed the physical characteristics of Indians viz: the lank, glossy black hair, the high cheekbones, and the bright, dark eye." This, in addition to the fact that as much as eighty years elapsed between any attempt to record their vital records in any form or keep track of their movements on or off their alloted reservations, makes it a marvel that they could be traced at all.

Schoolcraft, in 1850, said that only seven or eight full bloods remained out of a total of 847 in the state. Earle, in 1861 held "a few claim full bloods" and listed 376 families and 1438 individuals and 1610 known descendants of Indians. The Wampanoag had 1228 and the Massachusett had only 129 in total. Mattakeesett listed five families and twenty-five

individuals of Pembroke; twelve in Natick; and 117 in Punkapog. Punkapog and Natick were two of the seven "Praying Towns" of converts where the Indian converts were first to sing in Massachusetts church meetings. Punkapog was made up of Stoughton and Canton.

Professor Frank G. Speck of the University of Pennsylvania wrote in 1928 "Many of these mixed-bloods were even then (1861) dispersed throughout the adjacent towns and cities and they have continued to process (intermarrying with other races and spreading out) to such an extent that the total number of descendants may have increased considerably, but with corresponding loss of identity -as Indians - and racial distinctiveness."

THE LAST SURVIVORS

Prince and Wood: The last surviving families of local descendants of Indians to reside or be recorded in Hanson were Martin Prince and his wife Esther (Freeman) Prince and their children andgrandchildren. No known pictures of this family remain, but they lived in Pembroke, near the corner of West Elm and Oldham Streets and in East Abington (Rockland) and Martin died in Brockton. All their vital records are to be found in Hanson and the State Indian Census.

Isaac Wood and his wife Lucy (Sepit) Wood who were married in 1830 at the old Union Church suffered the loss of five members at one time according to the record when they were,

"unfortunately drowned in Oldham's Pond." Union Church stood where Benson's (Lynch's) sandpit is today at the corner of Cedar and Main Streets in Hanson. At that time this spot was part of East Bridgewater. The farm of John and Hannah(Robbin) Barker was at Poor Meadows according to Herbert Mogoun and the cellar hole remains.

Hyatt:

I believe we should include the Hyatt family who, although they lived in Pembroke, were well-known throughout the Hanson-Pembroke area and were, doubtless, the last survivors of the Royal family of Mattakeesett. The name was first spelled Hagh - as early as 1693; then Hoyitt - by themselves; Hite, Hight; Hoyt; and finally Hyatt. Wampatuck, son of Chickataubut had a daughter Abigail married Jeremiah Momentague (of Punkapoag) and had a daughter Patience whose first husband was Tobias Coombs and second husband Joseph Thomas (or Joseph Peter), and probably married Quason (name Quason same as Quan) by whom she had a daughter Abigail Quason whose first husband was a Brand. They had a son Caleb who married Demaris James and had a son James who married Hannah Med. John Quan froze to death in his wigwam where he lived with his squa before 1759 on the Robbin's Place in Abington.

Abigail Quason by her second husband - Richard Osgood had two daughters - Violet, who married Puffer Loudon ; and Suke or Suky (Susannah),who married first Richard Hite and had two children - Jane and Joseph Williams Hight. Suky

later either married a Josselyn or adopted that name. Her daughter, Jane Hight, never married, but Joseph married Abigail Chummucks of Duxbury - a descendant of the Mashpee tribe - and lived opposite the Hobomok Pond in Pembroke. They had three children Joseph W., Jr., Isaiah J., and Susan Jane. Susan Jane married Parker and she often told young Harold Clark, "I don't let no men in my house!" when he attempted to deliver her groceries from his father's store. They were remembered by Annie (Damon) Gorham of Main Street as, "Coming to the Methodist Church in Bryantville wearing white gloves and one of them was called Wampy or Hampy." We have no record of this child, unless it was a nickname for one of those listed. The best remembered was Henry Clay Hyatt who was much in demand throughout the locality at slaughtering time, which work he did barefoot with expert hand. He married Abigail Sophia Peterson and their daughter, Abigail, survives.

Robbins:

The Robbins family was the last to reside in Hanson proper. They came to this town from West Abington about 1850 and moved a house onto the Elijah Ramsdell Place at Dame's (Walkey's) corner near the Town Hall. They never purchased the land, so it remained Ramsdell property, and as the Robbin's place burned about 1885, Elijah's great-great grandson has now moved another house onto the old Robbin's foundation.

Indian History of Hanson - The Last Survivors (Cont.)

Tradition says that the old name was Robin, but by the time it appeared in State Indian Census records in 1861, it was Robbins.

Old Ebenezer Robbins married Eliza C. Josselyn. Eliza C. Josselyn was born in 1820 the year Hanson was incorporated, she was the daughter of Samuel Josselyn of Hanson. Eliza was Ebenezer's second wife and tradition says they were married at the old E. Phillips place on Brook Street in Hanson. Mrs. Phillips and Mrs. Ramsdell were sisters of Eliza. Ebenezer and Eliza had three children - Eliza Eudora, Ebenezer Webster (Web) and Samuel Ephar. Tradition says the year of E. Web's birth is incorrect and no mother is recorded. In view of the family tradition and the fact that E. Web,Sr. and E. Web, Jr. and Mary Eliza were appraised as best Indian types, this is significant. E. Web married Laura Ann Jannette Wade and their children were - Laura A., E. Webster, Jr., Mary Eliza (the writer's grandmother) and Nellie May who died of pneumonia after swallowing a thimble. Their mother died early and Web remarried. The stepmother, who was quite harsh with the children, was told by ten year old Mary Eliza, "You may be my stepmother, but you won't step on me;" with this she fled to her grandmother's little house near Cushing's Corner, formerly Bowker's store opposite the Town Hall. From here, she and her little cousin Mary Augusta (daughter of Samuel) walked to the Baptist Church each Sunday, gathered herbs in the woods and even visited old Grandma Barker, then

Indian History of Hanson - The Last Survivors (Cont.)

one hundred years old, in the old Cushing house. This direct contact with the older generation made it possible for them to learn the old family traditions first hand from Old Eliza who also wrote all her correspondence in verse and smoked a clay pipe. Both Mary Eliza and Mary Augusta claimed that their grandfather Robbins was a native Indian and records support this tradition.

Original verse LAST DAYS OF MATTAKEESETT

In far remote, intrguing days,
  Ere any sail had graced the bays
There dwelt a mighty nation here
  Who lived in peace year after year.
They occupied from Boston down
  Along South Shore to Plymouth town
And on their harbor island grew
  Their maize and beans and pumpkins too;
And inland 'round the herring ponds
  A thousan acres more of corn,
And fish in multitude would run
  Up from the sea in springtime sun
To glisten in the alewife weir.
  They knew not discontent nor fear,
These natives of Algonkin race
  With jet-black hair and dusky face.
Their life was good, but could not last
  When white men came with musket blast
These wild, free lands to fence with stone
  And drive the Red Men from their home.
The King, or Sachem, of this band,
  Who first extended friendship's hand,
Was Chicktaubut, House-a-fire.
  He helped when English need was dire.
He donned a suit of English clothes
  With deadly smallpox germs enclosed,
Was buried at Mount Wollaston,
  And then succeeded by his son.
This son, Wild Goose, called Wampatuck
  To Mattakeese his people took
Back to the ancient Planting Ground
  Encircling Pembroke's ponds around;

THE LAST DAYS OF MATTAKEESETT (Cont.)

To Namasakeesett, Place of Fish,
  Great source of food as they could wish;
To Dancing Hill by Herring Brook,
  Their harvest rev'lers favored nook.
For forty years with iron hand
  He ruled his fast declining band.
Upon his death his brother took
  Last Chieftainship of Old Pembroke.
Less twenty years was all his span -
  Then Abigail Momentague was Queen-of-the-land.
Her reign was less - but fifteen years -
  Decline of race and useless tears.
Then came Patience, Sunny Eye -
  Her monument, Queen's Brook nearby.
As disease and poverty ran amuck
  Fear to the hearts of her people struck
And after a Pow Wow at Hobomock Grove,
  Away her tribe their sad way wove
To Sachem's Point, and Sunny Eye
  There urged their Queen with them to fly
To Tunk, The Crossway and beyond;
  To Old Satucket, Robin's Pond.
Their Queen, granddaughter of Chickataubut,
  Refused to leave their ancient land
And lived alone on Sachem Strand,
Whose sandy finger, lily-ringed,
  Forever points to the Graven-of-Kings,
Where close beneath the pine-clad shore
  There lay three husbands, gone before.
And Abby Quan, the Wild Rose fair,
  Her daughter with the raven hair
She died in seventeen eighty-eight,
  Last Queen of Massachusett's great;
Her lodge til eighteen hundred stood,
  Decaying 'mongst the forest wood.
The Queen is gone, her people too!
  Tall pines now wave where corn once grew,
And all that's left to tell of them
  Are broken tools of Stone-Age Men.
Turned up by plow or washed by rain,
  They still are found on hill and plain;
Reminding those of us who care,
  Of ancient men who florished there.

by Russell H. Gardner, Hanson

NOTE: In relation to the foregoing verse; it traces the Royal line of Massachusett, who last resided in Old Pembroke, using

the ancient place names and giving their meanings.

It is true to Historic fact and record in every important particular, genealogical and otherwise; but incorporating some traditional features to enhance the basic matter. It was entered in the Poetry Contest, Adult Class of the Pembroke Poetry Workshop in 1956 and won Second Prize and was thereafter published in the Poetry Workshop Annual for that year. It was previously published in the HANSON COURIER; however, some changes have been made, since these appearance of this original historical verse and is now the truest to actual recorded historic fact. Also note in sequel, that at least two living descendants survive.

From Dir. Bronson M. Mass. Archae. Soc. & Edit. of Soc. Bull.
"An Appraisal of Six Generations of Photos of the Robbin's Family"
Dr. Maurice Robbins, Ph.D. Attleboro, Mass.

"I am happy to say that the several photographs of this Robbins' family seemed to me to have definite Indian physical characteristics. I noted, for example, the high molar arches, exaggerated orbital ridges, nasal development and cranial shapes.

"This was especially noticeable in two of the males and one elderly female".(E. Web, Sr. E. Web, Jr., and sister Mary Eliza; doubtless traceable to another Indian strain.) "The Robbins family seems to be of Massachusetts' extraction by way

of the Punkapog Band. As these people seem to have been rated as fullbloods by Earle (State Indian Census, 1861) and as he is careful to note the presence of foreign or mixed blood, their descendants (in the present generation) would have inherited considerable of the blood.

"It is well to note, also, that by 1861 many were not living upon their tribal reservations but as they held rights to land, were named by Earle. This Robbins family may well have been among these absent land-holders."

REFERENCES:

THE MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY Vol. XIV, #3 Museum Number, Bulletin, Apr. 1953.

Dr. Maurice Robbins, Ph.D. Editor of Bulletin and Director of The Bronson Museum, Attleboro, Mass.

INDIAN NOTES AND MONOGRAPHS #44 "Museum of the American Indian" published by Heye Foundation, NY. A series of publications on/or relating to the American Aboriginies by Prof. Frank G. Speck of the U.of Penna. on "Territorial Subdivisions of the Wampanoag, Massachusett and Nauset Indians", Edited by by F. W. Hodge, 1928.

HISTORY OF CARVER by Griffith on 1702 Indian Grant

LEGENDS AND LANDMARKS OF PEMBROKE by Harry Wheatland, Litchfield, 1904

THE BRYANTVILLE NEWS Historic Pembroke 1712-1912. A Special Edition Published on the 200th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Pembroke, Mass. Geo.Ed.Lewis August 1912.

PLYMOUTH COLONY RECORDS, BOOK OF COURT ORDERS Vol.V,P.173,174, 207, 223 on Gov.Winslow's Order to enslave the families of Cape Cod Indian Sachems.

Indian History of Hanson - References (Cont.)

OLD Maps of Hanson, Pembroke, Abington and Carver between 1830 and 1903 listing and locating residents.

Records of J. Turner and I. Barker, for thirty years the Guardians of the Pembroke Indians, as copied from the original records and writings of Bryant by Walter Keene of So.Hanson.

State Report on INDIANS IN THE COMMONWEALTH for the Governor and Coun. 1859 and 1860 Census Pub. 1861 and Mass. Senate Papers #96,1861 both by J.M. Earle, Comm.

Bulletin 30 of BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY of The Smithsonian Institute Washington, D.C. Parts 1 and 2.

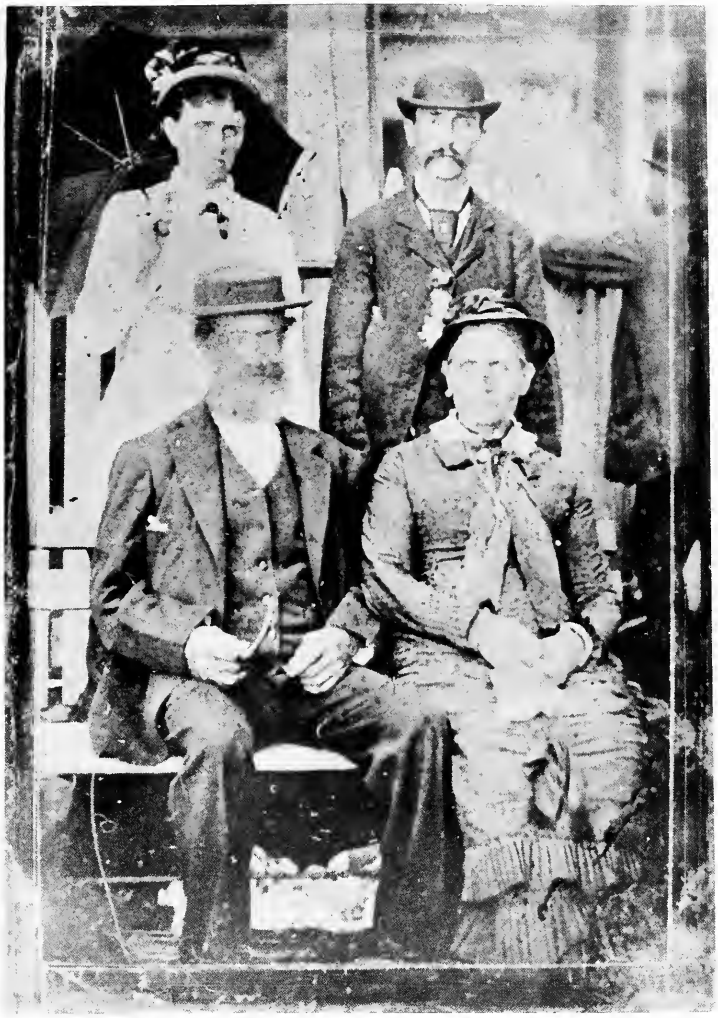
Town Vital Records of Pembroke, Hanson, E.Bridgewater, Scituate, Canton, Carver, Barnstable, Abington, Duxbury, Plymouth, and Plympton.

The State Archives and Library State House Boston, Mass. for Legislative material on Indians.

Plymouth Probate Records; Book 4, P.274; B5, P147 & 8; B9 P 187 from 185 and to P.235; B5,P.145; B23,P119; B24,P.308-9; B.22,P121-3 and P.215; B26,P.423; B6, P.609; B.11,P.270; B.87,P.146-7 (in relation to the Robbins family)

Ten Thousand Years in America by Wm.Smith Fowler, Pub.by Vantage Press on cultures

The traditional sources are, mostly given in the account itself and have been absorbed, over many years, from the writer's own and other old families and gleaned from the older generations by the painstaking questioning of those who could recall much of value, never recorded, but giving clues to that which can be proved, and at the same time, giving local flavor to the account. This being at every opportunity followed up with persistent investigation, for every authentication possible. Also many years of seeking out and identifying ancient locations in order to be familiar with all aspects of the country, as it was and is now; also in respect to Hanson's last Indian family, the papers of Cyrus Nash of Abington in "Abington Hist. Soc. (Ref. D-9 P.4 yr. 1846 also G02, P.136 from papers of Uncle John Nash, Sex. 1st Ch.)



The Robbins Family in 1860's

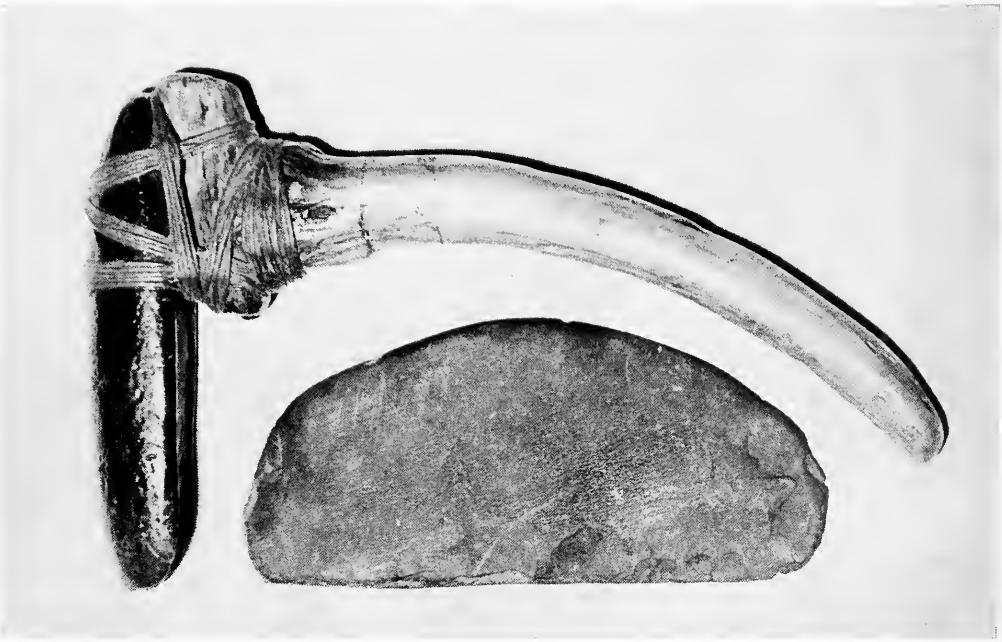
The Last Indian Family in Hanson

Mary Eliza (Robbins) Gardner

Last Generation of Native Indians

Born in Hanson

Ancient Indian Mortar - Poor Meadows (Elm St.)



Gouge and Ulu Knife unearthed in Hanson

Archaic Tools approximately 2000 B.C.

West Indian Rum Jug

Unearthed from an old Indian Grave on the

Benj. Hanks Farm 1924 (Main St.)

HISTORIC CHRONOLOGY

CHRONOLOGY OF TOWN SET OFF FROM PLYMOUTH
COLONY TO INSTITUTE THE TOWN OF HANSON

THE MAJOR'S PURCHASE

It is necessary for an understanding of a map, and important as a matter of interest, that we know something of the territorial changes which took place as this area expanded into a town.

First, we must find how the land was obtained, and we must learn its boundaries and the reason they came to be laid out, and we must know something of its topographical characteristics.

The early history of what is now the town of Hanson we find included in that of Pembroke. Pembroke is made up of what was the we stern portion of Duxbury, and a large grant of land known as the "Major's Purchase".

This purchase was made by Major Josiah Winslow of Marshfield and 34 other propriators July 9, 1662, who bought of the Indian Sachem Josias Wampatuck "a tract of land and meadows, bounded by the lands of Plymouth and Duxbury on one side, and of Bridgewater on the other side, and extending north and south from the lands formerly purchased by Capt. Thomas Southworth unto the great ponds, provided it include not the tousand acres given to my son and George Wampy about these ponds".

CHRONOLOGY OF TOWN SET OFF FROM PLYMOUTH COLONY
TO INSTITUTE THE TOWN OF HANSON (Cont.)

The Major's Purchase:

These bounds were so loosely defined, it caused arguments and contention in the several towns until 1784 when the propriators agreed to choose three men as a committee to resurvey the lands to settle the matter. They selected one many from Middleboro, one from Pembroke, and one from Duxbury. Their work must have been well done and to the satisfactbon of the propriators because the record shows that their survey was accepted. The bounds they drew up have never been changed. Each man was rewarded with a substantial grant of land for his services.

The grant of 250 acres of lands given to Nathaniel Thomas in 1680 is important to us because it comprises a large part of the town of Hanson. In 1694-95, Nathaniel Thomas bought from the Indian Wampatuck 250aacres more and, according to tradition, he also received the "right" to use water from Maquan and Indian Head Ponds and brook to build a dam (thought to be the first dam in the country) which for generations was known as the Mill Pond and is now called Wampatuck after the old Indian Chief. Upon this dam Nathaniel Thomas erected a saw mill for his son Isaac Thomas.

As the settlers moved away from the coast seeking land for agricultural purposes, they were attracted by the fertile soil, the green meadows, the natural resources such as the

The Major's Purchase:

plentiful supply of oak and pine for building material, the possibilities of water power, and iron ore deposits here about.

With the increased population and extended development, the demand came for more convenient church and school privileges.

A petition was drawn up in 1746 addressed to the General Court praying that a proportion of land be "set off" from Pembroke to become a new town or precinct. In 1746 the West Parish was incorporated. It comprised not only the western area of the Major's Purchase of Pembroke, but also parts of Hanover, Abington, Bridgewater, and Halifax, all of which would be better accommodated in the new parish, for which a meeting house was already being built.

Hanover ceded a tract of land lying between Indian Head Brook and the then western line of Pembroke. This tract had been purchased by Cornet Robert Stetson and sold by him in 1671 to Joseph Barstow and was known at that time as Barstow's Land. This area and the "gore" made by the brook became part of the West Parish in 1727. Abington gave the rest of Barstow's land west of the Hanover line. Bridgewater in 1668 had acquired by a Court order a triangular piece of land giving her a new eastern boundary on the Major's Purchase as far north as Barstow's Land. It was this triangle that Bridgewater gave up. Halifax ceded a part

CHRONOLOGY OF TOWN SET OFF FROM PLYMOUTH COLONY
TO INSTITUTE THE TOWN OF HANSON (Cont.)

The Major's Purchase:
of her territory secured from Pembroke in 1734 situatediin "Sodom" and the Great Cedar Swamp.

The West Parish continued as thus constituted until 1754 when it petitioned the General Court that the parts belonging to other towns be made part of the town of Pembroke, the towns interested having given consent. On June 7, 1754 $h3 above mentioned towns became part of Pembroke territory. And when in 1820 the West Parish became incorporated as the town of Hanson, all these grants were a part of it, totalling an area of over 17 miles.

There is an ancient law that reads: "The Honorable Board of Selectment shall perambulate the boundaries of the town every five years." This is an exciting experience, but not an easy task. Arrangements are made with the selectment of the town bordering each section and together they must cut their way through brush and briar, wade swamp, cross lakes to see that the boundary stones are in place.

Hanson has 31 "corners" or boundary marks, and if we should perambulate with our selectment, it would add greatly to our general information, and we would become familiar with the outlines of our town. We will find corner number one by following Monponsett Street southerly for about 1400 feet to a cart path which we follow westerly to its end, about 3 3000 feet, near summer camps on the north shore of Monponsett

The Major's Purchase:

pond. Here we find a dark colored stone monument a little over two feet high with the letters "H" on the east and west faces.(For Halifax and Hanson.)

Corner number two we find by following Pleasant Street southerly for about a mile to the north shore of Monponsett pond. Here we take a boat, and skirting the north shore of Monponsett pond in a westerly direction we come to number two which is called a "floating land" marker, a bunch of cedar stakes driven into the swamp. We are told that many years ago a stone was placed here, but the swamp soon swallowed it. Since then cedar stakes with the initials of the selectment and the date is driven in. Stakes dating before the Civil War are found there.

Corner three is in a heavily wooded cedar swamp about a mile west of Pleasant Street and is also a bunch of cedar stakes or floating land marker.

Corners four and five are in a southerly and extreme south-westerly direction and easily located. We have followed the Halifax line for about four miles.

Corners six, seven, eight, and nine border East Bridgewater, and are in a northerly direction in pasture land, and bushy meadow. These are stone monuments with the letter "B" on one face and "H" on the other.

CHRONOLOGY OF TOWN SET OFF FROM PLYMOUTH COLONY
TO INSTITUTE THE TOWN OF HANSON (Cont.)

The Major's Purchase:

From here we follow a fairly straight line along East Bridgewater in a north westerly direction to corner ten, a granite stone south of the railroad station in Whitman with E. B. A. H. 1830 cut in it. This stone marks the corner of three towns, East Bridgewater, Abington and (now Whitman) and Hanson. The stone was set in 1830. We have covered a little over three miles along this border.

Northwest we go again to corners eleven and twelve along Whitman for about two miles through cultivated fields and firmly wooded spots.

The twelfth monuments marks the angle of three towns and has the letter "H" on the south face, "W" on the west face and "R" - for Rockland - on the east face. Our Rockland border is less than a mile.

About one-half mile west of King Street in a swamp, we find corner thirteen which also marks the angle of four towns. The letter "H" is cut on the south -Hanson; "H" on the east - Hanover; "R" on the west - Rockland; "A" on the north - Abington, now Whitman.

Now we come to a boundary which runs in the channel of Indian Head River (corner fourteen). It is marked by a witness stone situated in a wall on the westerly side of King Street, near the junction of King and Whitman Streets

The Major's Purchase:
in the north part of Hanson.

Corner fifteen is situated also in the channel of Indian Head river at the junction of Rocky Run Brook. We have travelled through our Hanover border which is less than a mile. We continue to follow a watery path south by the town of Pembroke to corner sixteen near a culvert at the junction of Washington Street, Hanson, and Columbus Street Pembroke. Then south west by the town of Pembroke to corner seventeen standing in woodland near State and Brook Streets.

Corner eighteen we find is another water boundary on the north shore of Oldham Pond. Corner nineteen is in low woodland a few feet south of Oldham Pond near Mattekeesett Street and of Maquan Street.

Corners twenty, twenty-one,-two,-three, and -four are located in and to the south of Maquan Street in cultivated fields and woods. Corner twenty-five is on the north-easterly shore of Indian Head Pond at about the high water mark. Along the easterly shore of Indian Head Pond we find corner twenty-six near the intersection of a farm road and a dyke in a cranberry bog.

Corner twenty-seven is situated a few feet east of a wall on the westerly side of Mattekeesett Street about one-quarter mile from Bryantville Four Corners. On level land at the junction of Main and Mattekeesett Streets in Bryantville

CHRONOLOGY OF TOWN SET OFF FROM PLYMOUTH COLONY
TO INSTITUTE THE TOWN OF HANSON (Cont.)

The Major's Purchase:

Village corner twenty-eight is located. Letter "H" is cut on the west face and $\frac{P}{1630}$ on the east face. Corner twenty-nine is set one foot northwest of an angle in a fence at easterly corner of Bryantville Village. Corner thirty is situated in cultivated land on the southwest side of junction of Plymouth and Main Streets. Corner thirty-one is in woodland thirty-one feet east of the railroad tracks on the slope of a small hill.

From corner sixteen to thirty-one, we have followed the town of Pembroke for over five miles. If we continue southwest by the town of Halifax for 4506 feet we have circled our town.

For more complete directions from stone to stone see The Atlas of the Boundaries of the Town of Hanson issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the town hall or libraries.

Inside the borders of Hanson the terrain is fairly level along the south and west, with elevations up to 100 feet along the east and northeast. The soil is moist and of good texture.

There are a number of ponds, Indian Head - 137 acres, and Maquan - 43 acres being entirely within its borders. Oldham Pond - 39 acres on the Pembrok line, and 22 acres of

CHRONOLOGY OF TOWN SET OFF FROM PLYMOUTH COLONY
TO INSTITUTE THE TOWN OF HANSON (Cont.)

The Major's Purchase:

Monponsett Pond on the Halifax border, are partly in Hanson. Maquan Pond theough Indian Head Pond, Indian Head Brook and Indian Head River is the head waters of the North River.

Another branch of the North River flowing from Hanover was dammed up at Winter Street to provide power for industrial purposes. There is a turbine type water wheel in this location. This pond is called Factory Pond. Indian Head Brook was dammed in several places to furnish power for miles. Stetson Brook was dammed near the railroad south of Monponsett Street, and a pond known as Chandler Mill Pond was formed and used for saw mills. It is now used to irrigate cranberry bogs. Other bodies of water in town are also used for this purpose.

Poor Meadow River is formed by water running through the Abingtons from the swamps of Weymouth. It runs south through the westerly part of Hanson into East Bridgewater and Robbins Pond, eventually emptying into the Taunton River. White Oak Brook takes the waters from the swamps in the south eastern part of town and empties them into Monponsett Pond. The Old Cedar Swamp Brook near the South Hanson station took its name from its source and flowed north through meadows to Poor Meadows River.

CHRONOLOGY OF TOWN SET OFF FROM PLYMOUTH COLONY
TO INSTITUTE THE TOWN OF HANSON (Cont.)

The Major's Purchase:

Drinkwater River has its source in Rockland and forms part of the northern boundary of Hanson and empties into Indian Head River.

Through the years of our growth as a town, these ponds, brooks, and rivers have provided the good incomes that supported many generations in a happy and prosperous way of life.

<u>Sources of Information</u>:

Articles written by William W. Bryant of Bryantville

Mr. Mercer V. Tillson of Hanson

The Bryantville News edited by George Edward Lewis of August, 1912

The Hanson Currier edited by Ralph Binns

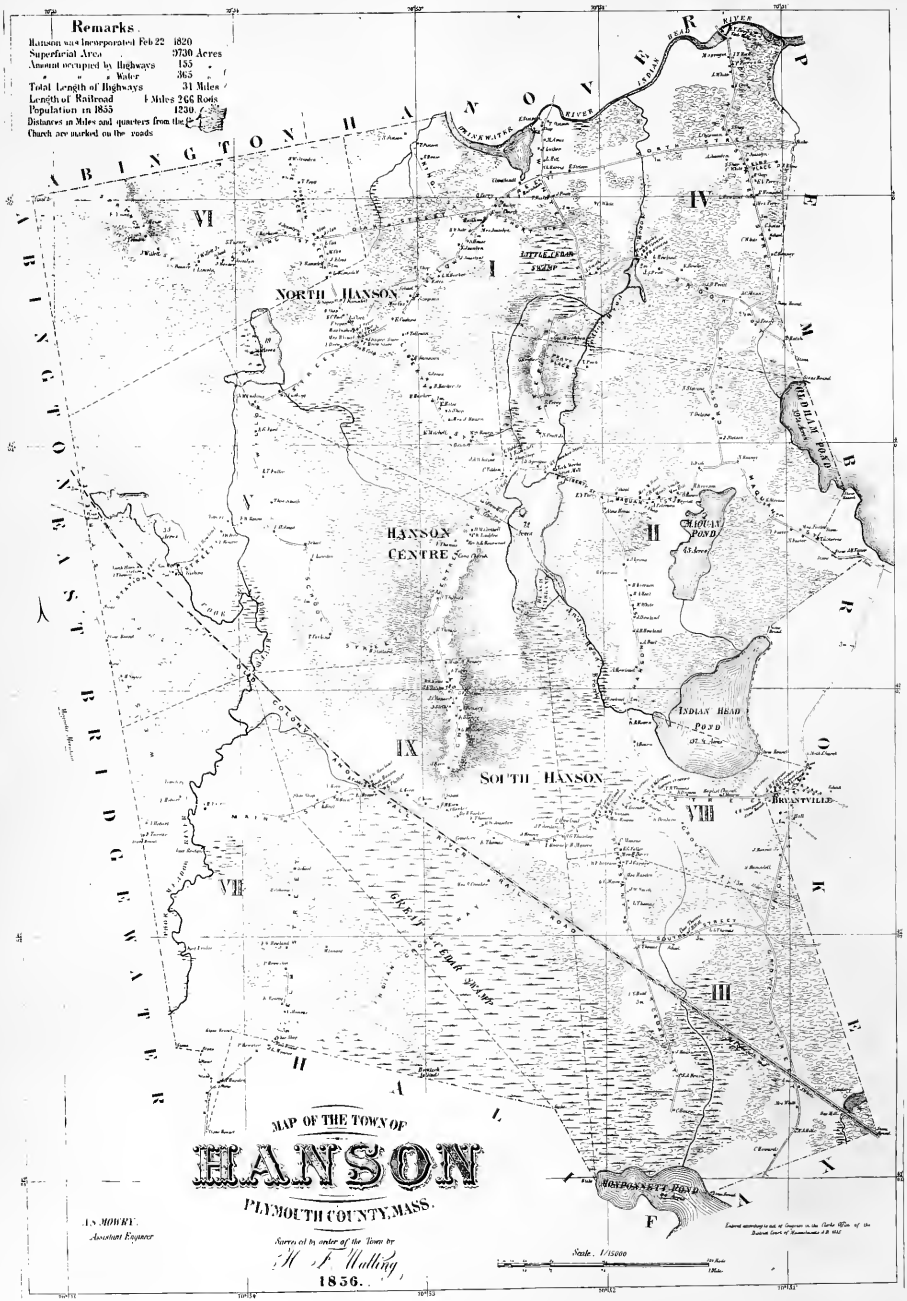
The Monograph of the Town of Hanson, 1958, articles by Robert C. Andrews, Chairman of Board of Selectmen

The Atlas of the Boundaries of Town of Hanson, issued by Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Purchade Purchase (Major's Purchase)

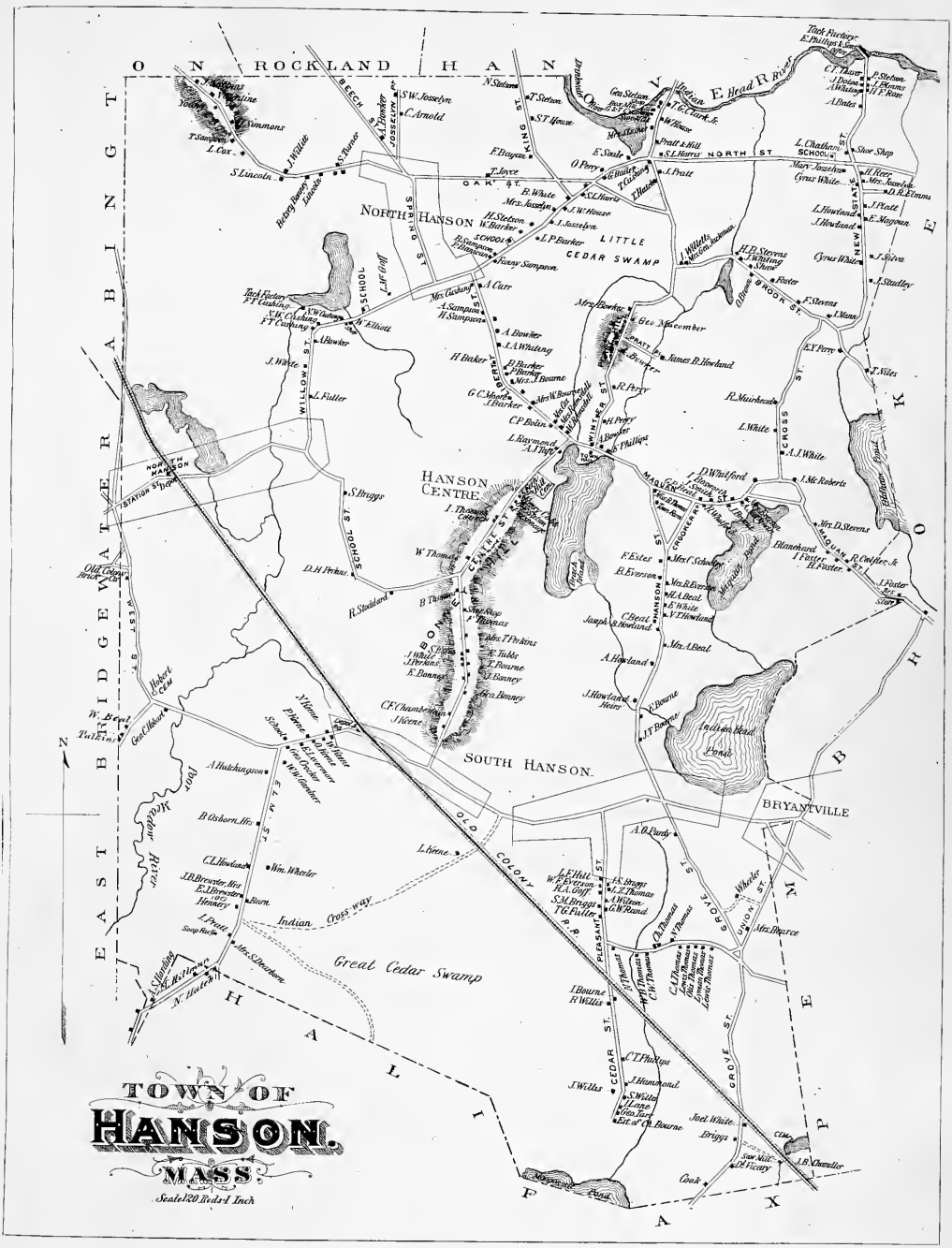
The original deed from Chief Wampatuck to

Josiah Winslow – 1662 which includes Hanson and Pembroke



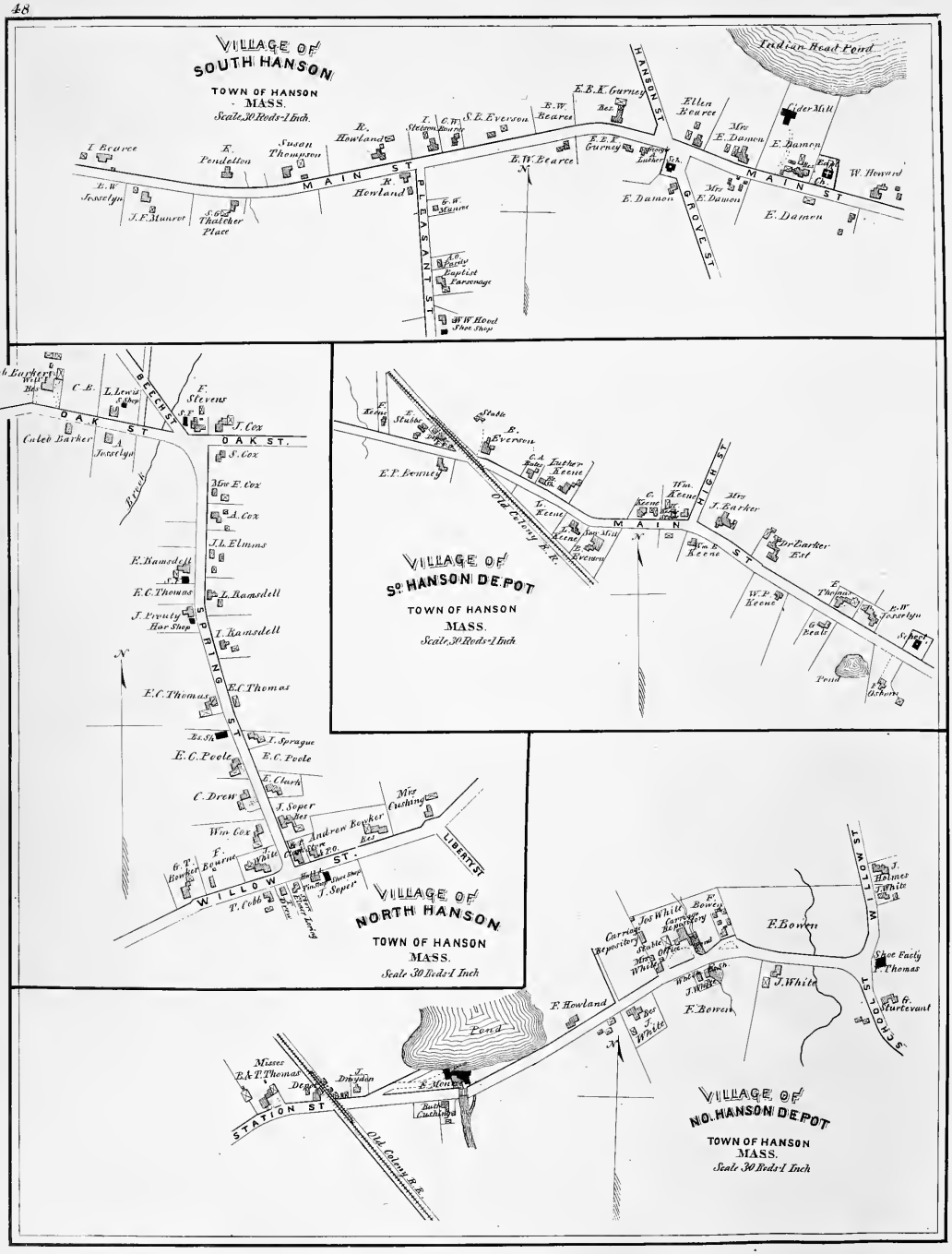
Map of the Town of Hanson

1856



Map of the Town of Hanson

1879



Villages of North and South Hanson
showing Industries and Residences in 1879

Early Dirt Road Gordon Rest Hill (Liberty St.)

Site of the first dam in Plymouth County, 1695

Early Dirt Road - The Narrows, Monponsett

(Route 58)

Boundary Stone marking most northern point

of the Major's Purchase (West of Liberty St.)

Split Rock Spring - Natural Curiosity and source

of early water supply (East of High St.)

THE PURCHADE PURCHASE

PURCHADE PURCHASE

Know all men by these presents that I Josias Wampetuck Sachem have and by these presents doe bargaine sell allien and dispose of; in behalf of myself commonly Called Pacheag pond lying and being between Namassakett River and a certain Brook that falleth into Titicutt River; namely the most westerly of the three Smale brooks that doe fall into the said River and bounded on the south by Certain Swemps and low valleys that goe from the said Namassakett River on the east unto the above said brook with all the woods waters meddows and all priviledges and appurtenances thereunto appertaining and belonging unto Major Josias Winslow for himself and other English; and alsoe all the meddows lying on the westward syde of said Namassakett River, as high as the wadeing place att the Taunton path and all such meddows as lye upon any of the three brookes abovementioned through without the Crosse exit that bounds the Nocke for and in consideration of twenty Pounds of him in hand Received, and doe herby fully and absolutely Resigne and give up unto the said Josias Winslow pteners and to theire heires executors and assignes forever all and singulare the abovementioned lands woods waters meddows etc; with all priviledges and appurtenances by them to be held possessed and enjoyed forever; and alsoe I the SAID Josias have as freely and absolutely sold unto the said Josias Winslow; one other Traft of land and meddows bounded by the lands of Plymouth and Duxburrow on the one syde and of Bridgewater on the other syde; and

Purchade Purchase (Cont.)

extending North and south from the land formerly purchased by Captaine Thomas Southworth unto the Great pond of Mattakeesett provided it enclude not the Thousand acres given to my sonne and Gorg Wampey above those ponds; and I doe by these presents Resigne up unto the said Josias Winslow his heirs executors and assignes forever; ;all and singular the lands above mensioned by him and them to be held possessed and enjoyed forever; In witness wherof I have herunto sett my hand and seale this ninth day of July 1662.

Signed sealed and delivered
in the presence of

the mark O of Edward Gray
mark A of George Wampey
mark X of John Wampenes

The mark of Josias Wampatucke
And a seale

The lands abovemensioned sold by Josias Wampetuck to mee and to my ptners although Included in one deed are to be understood to be two definite purchases; the former belonging unto those eight persons that had theire allotments upon Pochaeg necke and to theire heires forever; and the latter Tract mensioned lying between the bounds of Plymouth duxburrow and Bridgewater; and extending Northward towards Mattakeesett great ponds; abe belonging unto all the first propriators of Namassakett plantation on both sydes of the River; viz. unto the eight shares upon Pachaeg and unto those that had theire allotments on the Easterly side of Namassakett upon the purchase made by Captaine Southworth. In witness wherof I

have hereunto sett my hand.

Josias Winslow

This was done in Court held att Plymouth the 4th. of June 1669.

Upon the preseding purchases, the following orders of court were adopted June 3, 1662: - "In reference to a petition preferred to the Court by sundry of the freemen, and in reference unto a graunt made to some to looke out accomodations of land as being the first borne children of this government, and for the disposing of two small tracts of land lately purchased, the one by Major Winslow and the other by captaine Southworth, the Court having viewed the small lists of the names of those that desired to be accomodated therein, have settled it upon these whose names follow -

Mr. Prince	Anthony Annable for his
Mr. Bradford	daughter
Major Winslow	Hannah Bumpus
Mr. Alden	Francis Sprague
William Mullins	Gorg Soule
Mr. Brewster	Nathaniel Warren
Phillip Delanoy	Mr. Howland
Mr. John Winslow	Francis Cooke
John Adams	Lieutenant Matthew Fuller
Peter Browne	Lieutenant White
John Chace	William Pontus
Sammuel Fuller jun.	of Plymouth
Steven Dean	Edward Bumpus
Andrew Ringe	Samuel Eddy
Francis Billington	William Hoskins
Moses Simonson	Gorg Partrig
Resolved White	William Nelson by right of
William Bassett	his wife

Edward Gray to have a double share
to be laid forth together

ACTS, PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES RELATING TO TERRITORY OF THE TOWN OF PEMBROKE, MASSACHUSETTS

Act of Incorporating - The West Parish of Pembroke
August 6, 1746

A Petition of sundry Inhabitants of Pembroke, Bridgewater, Abington, Hallifax, and Hanover, setting forth the difficulties they are under to attend the publick worship in the respective towns to which they belong; and praying that they may be made a separate Township or Precinct; all the said towns, saving Pembroke, having consented thereto.

ORDERED that the prayer of the Petition be so far granted as that the lands therein described, bounded as follows, viz: Beginning at the south west corner of Ezekiel Turner's land wherein he now dwells, and then running south in the line of the Cornet's Purchase, so called, about a mile and a half to a stake and stones, it being a corner bounds of Abington and Bridgewater; then continuing the same course in the East Four Mile line of Bridgewater, so called, about two miles and a half to a Stake and Stones standing in the line between the farm of David Hatch and the farm of Nath'l Hardin, whereon they now dwell; then running easterly in the line betwixt said Hatches and Hardins land to a Stake and Stones standing in the line bwtwäxt the towns of Bridgewater and Hallifax to the Northwest Corner of Cpt. Croads lot, being the 63d Lot in the Major's Purchase; then running East South East till it comes to Pembroke line; and then running Easterly in the line betwixt Hallifax and Pembroke to a stake and stones near Hulston's Saw Mill, so called; then running North five miles and forty rods to a Stake

and Stones on the southerly side of Drink Water River, about a mile and one quarter to the South East Corner of said Turner's Lot, and then running westerly between said Turner's and George King's Lot, about two miles and a quarter to the first Corner; together with all the land adjoining on the east side of the aforesaid Five Mile and Forty Rods Line which belongs to any of the inhabitants who dwell on the lands above described; saving and excepting out of the bounds aforesaid Josiah Foster Junr and David Daling with their estates, who are to remain still to Pembroke, as also all the land adjoining on the West side of said Five Mile and Forty Rods Line that belong to any person or persons on the Easterly side of said line in Pembroke; and all the Inhabitants living on the lands aforesaid, be erectd into a Separate and Distinct Parish or Precinct, and vested with all such powers and priviledges as Precincts by law enjoy; and that Elijah Cushing, one of the principal inhabitants in said Place is hereby impowered to call the first Precinct or Parish meeting.

(Passed August 6, 1746.)

INCORPORATION OF WEST PARISH - PEMBROKE Petition

To his Excellency William Shirley, Esq. &c. -

Humbly sheweth Elijah Cushing, Agent for & in behalf of the Second Precinct in Pembroke in the County of Plymouth That sd Precinct consists of the Corners of Five Towns viz: Pembroke, Hallifax, Bridgewater, Abington & Hanover (and were in the year A.D. 1746) Voted off by sd Towns in order to be Incorporated as a Town or Precinct & have ever since been increasing and being very remote from the Centers of sd Towns, saving Pembrook which they are much nearer too, and, by reason of their being so remote they are put to great Difficulty to Attend the Town Meetings in their several Towns when they accidentally hear of them; for no Notifications are ever set up in sd Precinct to Inform them, in the Corners of sd Towns, of the Town Meetings, and besides they are obliged to pay to the support of the Grammar School but can receive no Benefit there-from, and so are obliged to Provide themselves a School Master or have none - yr Petr would further beg leave to say that if all the Inhabitants of sd Precinct and the Estate therein & thereto belonging was annexed to the Town of Pembroke aforsd it would greatly serve the sd Precinct under their Present Difficulties aforsd, and more Especially with Respect to the Schooling of their Children, and would also Benefit Abington, Hanover & Hallifax they now being obliged to Choose Precinct Officers by reason of a small number of Familys in their Precinct taken from the three Towns aforsd, wherefore yr Petr in behalf of sd Precinct prays that the Precinct

aforsd with the Inhabitants and Estates therein may be Annexed to & made Part of the Town of Pembroke aforsd and Do Duty and receive Priviledge there.

And Yr Petr as in Duty Bound shall Pray &c.

(Signed) Elijah Cushing

Order of Council dated April 10, 1754

House concurred June 7, 1754

Bridgewater	assented	May 15, 1754
Halifax	"	May 23
Hanover	"	May 20
Abington	"	May 26

Opposed May 29 by Joseph & Thomas Josselyn, owing about 600 acres partly in Hanover and partly in Abington, as detrimental to their interests.

VOTES OF THE WEST PARISH

Sept. 18, 1786 "Voted to come off as a distinct township."

April 2, 1812 "Voted to accept the report and doings of the agents chosen to renew and settle the line between the two parishes in this town."

"Voted to be separated from the other parish in this Town and incorporated into a distinct Township."

(Reconsidered at the adjourned meeting held May 25, 1812.)

PETITION FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF HANSON

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled May 26, 1819.

The inhabitants of the West Precinct of Pembroke in the County of Plymouth by Thomas Hobart, their Agent, legally appointed and authorized, beg leave to represent - That the territory of said Town of Pembroke is very extensive - That many of the inhabitants have to travel from five to seven miles to attend town meeting - That on account of the unwieldiness and various local interests and prejudices of said town the inhabitants are put to much inconvenience, and frequent complaints and difficulties are experienced in conducting their municipal affairs - That your petitioners have for along time firmly believed that peace, good order and economy would be greatly promoted by a division of said town, & setting off the said West Precinct into a distinct Corporation - Conformably to which on the 8th of March* last said West Precinct held a meeting and voted (there being but three dissenting) to petition the General Court for a separation - And on the 25th of the said month at another meeting for that purpose, chose an agent to conduct the business for them - That afterwards the East or Old Precinct gave their consent by a publick vote - That on the 3d day of May instant the subject came before the Town of

*Afterwards reported this was a mistake, the meeting being February 8th.

Pembroke, and it was there voted almost unanimously that the said town consent to have the said West Precinct incorporated into a separate town - at which last said meeting a committee of six - three from each Precinct - were chosen by the town for the purpose of agreeing on the terms of separation, and also to fix and determine where the division line should be - as should best accommodate both towns & be the least prejudicial to private property - which said committee afterwards held a meeting and agreed to said terms, and also where the line of division should be, and made up their siad opinion in writing as follows, viz:

1st. (In the Act of Incorporation the division line is given the same as in the Petition, and therefore ommitted here.)

2nd. It is further agreed that the poor already supported and those who shall hereafter be returned for support shall be supported by the town in which such poor gained their settlement.

3d. (Debts to be apportioned according to valuation)

4th. The Herring Fishery is to be resigned to the old town of Pembroke and to continue under their sole control; but the inhabitants if the town to be incorporated shall be allowed the privilege of purchasing fish in the same manner and order as at present practised, they claiming no proceeds of said Fish & being at no expense in their regulation.

Petition for the Incorporation of the Town of Hanson (Cont.)

(Signed) Thomas Hobart
Oliver Whitten
Jacob Bearce
Kilborn Whitman
William Torrey
David Oldham, Jr.

Wherefore your petitioners, conceiving that there can be no reasonable objection to your granting their request do humbly pray that said West Precinct of Pembroke be organized into a separate and distinct town by the name of Hanson agreeable to the above towns with such alteration as shall be thought to be most fit & proper, and vested with all the powers and privileges and subject to all the duties and requisitions of other corporate towns according to the [Constitution and Laws of this Commonwealth - And as in duty bound will ever pray

(Signed) Thomas Hobart, Agent

*The name is inserted in the handwriting of Eben Gay, Chairman of the Committee of both Houses.

HANSON'S INCORPORATION - REMONSTRANCE

Pembroke, May 1819

To the Honorable the Senate &c. The memorial of the subscribers, inhabitants of the Town of Pembroke, Humbly sheweth, that whereas a number of the inhabitants of the westerly part of said town have requested to be incorporated into a separate town and it being represented to said town that the inhabitants living within the limits of the contemplated new town were nearly unanimous in favor of said separation, said town supposing an almost unanimous desire for a separation did exist, and perhaps without maturely considering the impropriety of said separation, did vote for said division of the town, Now we, the subscribers, living within the limits of the contemplated new town, or near the line of division, are decidedly opposed to the division of the town, and pray that said new town may not be incorporated. And as in duty bound, we pray

Benjamin Bowker	Joseph Bearce	Jonathan Howland
Sam'll House, Jr.	Ebenezer Keen	Richard Everson
Gad Bowker	Daniel Crooker	Charles B. Perry
Nathaniel Pratt	Rowland Bonney	Warren Howland
Joseph Bonney	Joseph Thomas	Joseph Howland
Samuel Ramsdel	Benjamin Tubbs	Crowel Bonney
Cornet Cobb	Joseph Torry, Jr.	Richard Buker (Barker?)
Samuel House	Isaac B. Barker	Oren Josselyn
Seth Perry	George W. Munroe	Francis Josselyn
Jacob Bryient	-----tan Bryient	Ozen Josselyn
Bethuel White	Levi Everson	Wm. Josselyn
Shadrach Thomas	John Fish	Nathan Dwelly, Jr.
Zadock Reed	Micah Foster, Jr.	Isaac Cook
James A. Burse	Job Cole	John Tolman
Nathan Thomas	Enos Cox	Francis Josselyn, Jr.
John Bourn	Nathan Stevens	Jesse Beal
J-----Howland?	Levi Thomas	Noah Bonney, Jr.
Oliver Bourn	Micah Foster	John Pratt
Abiel Bourn	Noah Bonney	Samuel Ramsdel, Jr.
Charles Josselyn	Edward Stevens	Job Luther
	Jacob Josslyn	Ezekiel Bonney

In Senate 3 June 1819 House of Representatives 4 June 1819

To the Honorable the Senate &c.

Humbly sheweth that whereas there is a petition of part of the inhabitants in the westerly part of said town praying to be incorporated into a separate town, your petitioners living within the limits of the contemplated new town, near the easterly line thereof, are strenuously opposed to the division of said Pembroke. But if a new town must be incorporated we most earnestly pray that the line of division be extended westerly so as to leave your petitioners inhabitants of the old town. And as in duty bound will ever pray

Pembroke, Feb'y 1, 1820.

Charles Josselyn	George W. Monroe
Isaac Cook	Seth Perry
John Ramsdell	Richard Bowker
Nathan Stevens	John Wood
Micah Foster	Bethuel White
Levi Everson	Jacob Josselyn
Joseph Barstow	Crowel Bonney
Silvanus Everson	

An Act to Establish the Town of Hanson

Be it enacted &c. That all the west part of the Town of Pembroke, in the County of Plymouth, on the westerly side of the following line, be incorporated into a separate town: beginning at the mouth of Rocky Run Brook, so called; thence up stream, with said brook, until it comes to the road near Nathan Dwelly's; thence on a line to strike the northwest corner of the land of Samuel Perry in the line of the land of Seth Perry; thence with the lands of said Samuel and Seth Perry to Oldham Pond, so called; thence to the northeast corner of the land of Micah Foster, on the southerly side of said pond; thence by the line of said Foster's land to Indian Head

Pond, so called; thence southerly on the margin of said pond to the land of Levi Everson; thence easterly by said Everson's land to the road near the Baptist Meeting House*; thence on the northerly side of the road to the house of John Oldham; and thence crossing the road to the southerly side, and by said road to a corner between the houses of Levi Thomas and Levi Everson, and is a corner at which the Plymouth road commences; thence southerly to the southeast corner of Levi Everson's store lot, so called; thence southerly on a course to strike the southerly corner of the east and west parishes on the Halifax line; with all the inhabitants living thereon, be and hereby are incorporated into a separate town by the name of Hanson &c.

(Approved February 22, 1820.)

*The Baptist Meeting House in 1820 was the building (1912) now the dwelling of Greenleaf Kilbrith, opposite the present Methodist Meeting House in Bryantville, and stood on that site.

HANSON - PETITION OF JOSEPH LEONARD AND OTHERS

To the Honorable Senate &c.

We the undersigned Legal Voters in the Towns of Hanson and Pembroke of Plymouth County Represent that the line between said Towns is Crooked and inconvenient.

We therefore pray that a line may be run commencing at the southeast corner of Levi Everson's Store Lot (so called) thence in a Northerly direction to Indian Head Pond (so called), then Northerly on the margin of said pond to a stone Monument at the southwest corner of land of David H. Foster and that so much of the Town of Hanson with all the inhabitants and estates thereon lying Northeasterly of said line be set off and annexed to the Town of Pembroke.

Jan'y 1852.

Joseph Leonard	Benjamin Thomas
Henry H. Everson	John D. Mason
Joseph H. Everson	Jacob M. Bryant
Marden Drake	Nath'l. Damon
Otis H. Bates	Heman Thomas
Lewis T. Gray	Marcus Thomas
Wm. H. H. Bryant	

(The petition is supported by statements from the following inhabitants of Pembroke that the existing line runs through their property, necessitating taxes in each town.

John D. Mason	Nathaniel Damon
Jabez M. Gardner	Benjamin Thomas

HANSON - REMONSTRANCE TO PETITION OF JOSEPH LEONARD

To the Honorable Senate &c.

We the undersigned, inhabitance of and Legal Voters in the town of Pembroke, County of Plymouth, would Respectfully represent that the petition of Joseph Leonard and others of the towns of Hanson and Pembroke should not be Granted, for the reason that we view it, under all the circumstances, to be unjust.

We therefore respectfully Remonstrate against it, and pray your Honorable Body not to grant the Prayer of the Petitioners.

All which is most respectfully submitted.

Pembroke February 12th 1852.

Charles B. Ford	Thomas G. Stevens	Joseph Reed
William O. Thomas	David H. Foster	Thomas Turner
Lucius Reed	Luther Howland	Joseph Fish
Andrew B. Howland	Nathan B. Simmons	Eugene Fish
Nahum Leavitt	William H. Daniels	Joseph Boylston
Benjamin Bearce	Alx. B. Rand (?)	Nath'l S. Perry
Isaac O. Stetson	Nath'l Ford	
John Fish	Calvin T. Foster	
Jairus H. Foster	Peleg R. Sampson	

Pembroke Feb. 17th 1852

We the undersigned would certify that those that Brought the Remonstrance against the Petition of Joseph Leonard and others misinformed us, or we misunderstood them and we signed the Remonstrance which we should not have done had we understood it.

Lucius Reed William O. Thomas Joseph Reed

HANSON AFFIDAVIT OF DAVID OLDHAM

This is to certify that I was one of the Committee to run the line which divided the towns of Hanson and Pembroke, and was running on the margin of Indian Head Pond (so called) and from thence intending to run southerly straight to Halifax line; but was strenuously opposed by Levi Everson as he was very unwilling to have the line cross his farm; we then turned our course to please him, starting at his corner running Easterly by his line to the highway, thence by said highway round the land of said Levi Everson, to the easterly corner of said Levi Everson's store lot (so called); thence southerly to Halifax Line, leaving the store lot also in Hanson.

David Oldham

The Remonstrance to the Petition of Joseph Leonard and others was written and circulated by E. B. K. Gurney of Hanson.

OLD PEMBROKE MDCCXII CC
THE FIRST OR EAST PARISH 1712
THE SECOND OR WEST PARISH 1746
SINCE 1820 THE TOWN OF HANSON

HANSON

Her Hosts are all thy loyal sons

After the incorporation of 1746 the people of the West Parish continued to agitate the question of a separate township. It was evident that Pembroke must eventually give up that portion of its territory. The size of the town made it somewhat unwieldy, and the inhabitants of the West Parish rebelled against the distance they were obliged to travel to attend town meeting, although one in every three meetings was held in the second precinct.

It was not until May 3, 1819, that at a regular meeting of the citizens of the twon it was voted almost unanimously that the town consent to the separation. The terms were agreed upon by a committee of three from each parish. This committee was composed of Thomas Hobart, Oliver Whitten, Jacob Bearce, Kilborn Whitman, William Torrey, and Daniel Oldham, Jr. Thomas Hobart as agent for the West Parish presented the petition to the General Court in the spring of 1819. There was some delay in the proweedings, and it was not until February 22, 1820, that the act of incorporation was passed and the West Parish became a separate township.

The name of Hanson was given to the new town in honor of Alexander Conte Hanson, editor of the Federal Republican, who was a victim of the Baltimore riot.

Hanson had published an article in June 1812, criticising the administration, and a mob demolished the office and destroyed the presses and type. The paper was published for a time in Georgetown, but feeling called to vindicate the freedom of the press, he returned to Baltimore, and was again attacked.

His friends rallied to his defense, but the result was disastrous. A. Dr. Dale was killed, and Hanson and his friends were hurried to the jail for safety. The mob then attacked the jail and succeeded in taking their victims. General Lingham, who was an officer in the War of the Revolution, lost his life, and General Henry Lee, father of General Robert E. Lee, was made a cripple for the remainder of his days. Hanson was thought to be dead, but he was resuscitated and taken out of the city in a hay cart.

In three months the feeling against Hanson changed, and he was elected representative to Congress where he continued until 1816. He was then chosen to the United States Senate, an office which he held until his death in 1819.

THE WEST PARISH BECOMES HANSON

SETTLEMENT OF WEST PARISH: EARLY SETTLERS

If you will scratch beneath the surface of our modern way of living, you will find our town to have a strong traditional character. Many of its families descend directly from the earliest settlers.

The ideals which dominated the lives of the founders of Plymouth Colony have left their imprint on the progressive character of the Town of Hanson. These men were not people from hardy sea-faring stock, nor were they adventurous explorers. Consequently, partially due to the long sea voyage across the Atlantic and even more to the effect of the severe winter climate and bad food, forty-six of the party died before the spring of 1621.

The key to the character of the Pilgrims lies in the motives that inspired their journey to this new land. The driving force behind them was not the more common one of desire for fame or for riches. It was, primarily, a determination to attain freedom of thought and action and secondly it was the fundamental patriotism that rebelled against the loss of identification with their native England.

These character traits enabled the heroic men and women to endure the terrible sorrows and hardships of the early years of the settlement. Belief in liberty, determination to proceed against all odds and intense patriotism are a part of the heritage of Hanson.

Settlement of West Parish: Early Settlers (Cont.)

The incorporation of Pembroke resulted from the westward growth of Duxbury, whose western boundary was fixed (1641).

The North River, seemed to have been, as was quite natural, the best means of exploration. Settlements on and near the river gradually widened out. The coming of Wampatuck and his tribe, the sale of the "Major's Purchase" brought many newcomers.

Colonel Nathaniel Thomas of Marshfield, in 1691, through his connection with the "Major's Purchase", came into possession of 250 acres of land in what is now, the center of Hanson. In 1694 and 1695 he bought 250 acres more of the Indians. An authority states that about that time he built a dam on the Indian Head Brook, near the Hanson Town Hall, and a little later erected a saw mill for his son Isaac. In the year 1711, a log house was built on the brow of the hill overlooking the mill, at the time of Isaac's marriage.

The cellar of this house is easily located at the present time. At his death in 1731, Isaac owned 1200 acres of land, 110 acres comprising his home farm. His estate also included five yokes of oxen and five slaves. He and his two wives, Anne Thompson and Abigail Cushing sleep in the cemetary at Center Pembroke.

Few today realize that just about every foot of our Town's land was turned into some useful return. The best fields were cleared and cultivated for hay, corn and potatoes. The rougher

Settlement of West Parish: Early Settlers (Cont.)

parts were fenced into pasture lands, the wooded sections were carefully used for the timber land. Cedar swamps yielded cords of shingle stuff and thousands of fence rails.

Maple swamps provided quantities of cord wood to keep the houses warm during the long cold winters. Oak trees went into ship timber and fire wood. Any surplus was burned into charcoal. Swamps and lakes were bedded with iron ore so near the earth's surface that it was procured with almost no effort. It was the natural resources that attracted the first settlers.

Nothing definite can be ascertained as to who first settled in what is now Hanson, nor the time, but as early as 1679, James Bishop owned land on Indian Head Rivwr and was living in 1710. The name was originally spelled Bushop.

In 1684 William Tubbs was granted land "upon condition that he bear his part of the church and town charges". His land was adjoining that of Abraham Peirce and Nathaniel Thomas.

In 1712, Josiah Bourne, great grand-son of Thomas Bourne, one of the settlers in Marshfield, bought a large tract in the extreme southern part, next to the "Great Cedar Swamp", "with ye house on it" and traces of its location can still be seen. It is said of him that he was small in stature, a man of good practical sense, determination and perseverance, who made the hills and valleys laugh and shine with their abundance.

Settlement of West Parish: Early Settlers (Cont.)

The Bisbees and Pierces were early located on the Bridgewater Road, in the vicinity of South Hanson Station, on the Old Colony Railroad. John Bisbee was a tiller of the soil and sought situations favorable to it. His sons settled on his lands to carry on the same business.

Benjamin Hanks married in England and came to Plymouth, Mass. in 1699 and settled in the west part of Pembroke. In February 25th, 1713, he bought thirty acres of land of John Partidge. A part of the deed is here given: "In the northerly corner to a hemlock tree standing in a swamp thence running easterly 62 rods to stake marked 36-35, thence by ye 36th lot to stake with stones by ye most southerly way that leads to ye swamp commonly called and known by ye Cedar Bridge and from said stake by ye path over said swamp to a white oak tree which is the westerly corner bound thence running northerly to ye aforesaid hemlock tree."

This land was the south half of the 35th lot in the Major's Purchase. Benjamin Hanks resided here until 1725 when his wife died. He then sold his property to Isaac Little for 120 pounds ($610.00) and moved to Plymouth. The births of eleven children of Benjamin Hanks and wife Abigail are found recorded by Rev. Daniel Lewis in the First Parish records of Plymouth.

William the second son born February 11, 1704, settled in Virginia. His son, Joseph, married Nancy Shipley and their

Settlement of West Parish; Early Settlers (Cont.)
youngest child, Nancy, born February 5, 1784 married Thomas Lincoln June 12, 1806. They moved to Buffalo, Kentucky where Abraham Lincoln was born February 12, 1809.

One of the most prominent families of the West Parish of Pembroke back in those early days was the Cushing family. To go back a few years before the time Elijah Cushing built his house, the area which is now Hanson was in 1650 still a virgin forest. Huge oaks and beeches columned the hill sides, deer and wolves and wild turkeys roamed among them, and the woodland streams ran unobstructed except by such dams as the beaver had constructed.

It was all a part of the Old Colony with the white man's authority centered at Plymouth. He recognized the red chiefs as owners of all unpurchased soil. Bridgewater was pressing in from the west, Scituate on the north, while on the north-west Abington would soon be an incorporated neighbor. Easterly, a less simple situation arose, mainly due to Indian ownership. Only a small part of Hanson ever belonged to Massasoit's tribe of Wamppnoags, their "north" being the present Main Street, approximately.

The rest, including the herring ponds, was subject to the Massachusett tribe's chief, living in what is now Quincy.

In the year of Governor Bradford's death - 1657, Wampatuck, their young head chief, left that place and took residence at

Settlement of West Parish: Early Settlers (Cont.)

at the north end of Furnace Pond in Pembroke as if to serve notice that the region would not easily be given up.

The defeat of King Phillip in 1676 removed all danger of general uprising. A plague which swept the herring ponds about 1685 left hardly a score of Indians in the vicinity of what is now Hanson and thus opened the way for settlement by the White men.

It was to this wilderness area in 1724 that Elijah Cushing came and built his home.

When the house was erected the land on which it stood belonged to the town of Abington. Then in 1727 the land became part of the town of Hanover. In 1754 it became the West Parish of Pembroke.

The habits and customs of our forefathers and mothers are important in this history in showing the every day life amongst them. Every man and woman was addressed as Goodman and Goodwife. Only the very highest classes in society were given the titles of Mr. and Mrs. It was the habit in those days for men to wear very long beards. Females, whether old or young were content with a homespun flannel gown for winter and wrappers for summer. The latter were without a waist and gathered at the top. For occasional dress, a calico or poplin was enjoyed. Both leather and broadcloth shoes with high, wooden heels, covered and peaked toes

Settlement of West Parish: Early Settlers (Cont.)

turned up, were worn by females.

Brocades were a luxury and not much indulged in. When they were once obtained, they lasted long, being transmitted from mother to daughter through successive generations.

The meals in those days were frugal, the course at dinner in winter was first porridge, a broth with a few beans thrown in and seasonedd; second an Indian Pudding; and third boiled pork and beef with potatoes and pumpkins.

Suppers and breakfasts were usually alike, milk with toasted bread in it. They had no Sunday dinner until both meetings were over.

Succotash prepared from corn and beans was a favorite food and they were delighted to serve brown bread made of rye and Indian meal.

Later a custom grew up where by they ate salt fish on Saturday.

There was an unwritten law that required everybody to attend church. Men and women sometimes walked ten or twelve miles to attend services. Often the "well to do" came to church on horseback. It was no unusual thing for the owner and his wife, the one on a saddle and the other on a pillion, with perhaps a little boy or girl before them and as infant in the woman's lap, to ride half way to the place of worship

Settlement of West Parish: Early Settlers (Cont.)

and then dismount on arriving at the half way block and hitch the horse for the neighbors who set out on foot, walking themselves, the rest of the way.

Our early settlers were a thrifty, self-reliant and industrious people. There are many instances where sympathy, kindness or service has been revealed. There is something about their way of life that strengthened character and brought forth men and women of stamina.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION;

Old Pembroke (MDCCXIIC) W.W. Bryant and Evie Drew
History of Plymouth County D. Hamilton Hurd, Hanson
Pages 342 - E.B.K.Gurney
Richards History of Marshfield Chapter 36

EARLY STREET NAMES

Hanson Center is located in the geographical center of the town and surrounding the Town Hall.

On a map of Hanson, 1830, by 1Captain Joshua Smith, the streets have no names whatever. Indian Head Street was known as the Boston Road because the stage from Plymouth to Boston traveled over it. It was called Howland Street at one time. On the map of 1856, Indian Head Street was named Hanson Street. In 1892 when the Hanson Improvement Society made and erected street signs revising several names of streets, Hanson Street became Indian Head Street.

County Road was so named because most of the expense of building it was paid by the County. Hanson raised no maney for it by taxation.

The large, old elm trees that are growing on Elm Street were set out by Barney Everson in 1847 when he was sixteen years of age and employed by Eric Osborne who owned the former John Ibbitson home. These elms gave the street its name. Before this, the street had been called the Sodom Road.

Years ago, Washington Street was divided into three sections. The first section, called Station Street, was from the East Bridgewater line to the corner of the present Holmes Street and County Road. The next section was from the above named corner to the corner of Winter Street and was known as Willow Street. The third section was from the corner of 1W

Winter Street to the Pembroke line at Dwelly Street and was called North Street.

There is a lane leading from Spring Street which the citizens of Hanson voted to dignify by the name of Glenwood Place. It had been called for some time Josselyn Place for Samuel W. Josselyn who lived in the house at the end of the lane. Rhbert Thomas, a blacksmith, lived in this Josselyn house at one time and was the owner of a jackass of which many amusing stories are told - hence the name of Jackass Lane was applied to this former private roadway.

Main Street was known as Bridgewater Road; High Street was named Bonney Hill; Homes Street was named School Street; and South Street was called Thomasville.

Dame's Corner, the intersection of High Street, Liberty Street and County Road is now known as Walkey's Corner.

The community known as Fosterville was located in the vicinity of the junction of Mattakeesett a Street and Maquan Street.

The railroad station, commonly known as South Hanson, displayed the usual signs - with the name Bryantville thereon.

The Burrage station was originally called Bourntown.

The railroad crossing now known as Monponsett Station was originally known as Joel White Crossing. The original White

family lived in an old colonial house on Monponsett Street, across from the former Charles White home, now owned by Mr. Albert William Nicolls.

Many people think that Bonney Hill is the highest land in Plymouth County, but this is not the case. By actual leveling, Dana Pratt found that the land around the house of the late Thomas Bourne is 165 feet above sea level.

EARLY INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESSES

OCCUPATIONS AND INDUSTRIES

Nothing definite can be ascertained of the occupations of the first men who settled here, more than that they were generally tillers of the soil, and sought situations favorable to it.

A number of later residents are known to have made shingles by hand, and were known as shingle-weavers. These would go into the woods and swamps, where they procured their lumber, and remain there, cutting trees and making shingles on the same ground.

In different parts of the town were coopers; Gamaliel Bisbe, Jedediah Beal, and Thomas Macomber worked at this business, making buckets and tubs of various kinds. Ebenezer B. Keene made nails near his father's house. Enos Cox made hammered nails and many made tacks by hand, among them Thomas Gurney, Ephraim and Whitcomb Cox.

Several blacksmiths were in town before 1800. Nathaniel Thomas had a shop near the saw-mill at the foot of Almshouse Hill. Three successive generations by the name of Bonney were carpenters, the last, Noah, was born 1871.

Many worked in iron foundries and found work in East Bridgewater, Kingston, and Easton. On the gravestone of Lemuel Bonney who died in 1803, is inscribed, "One of the greatest iron founders in America".

Occupations and Industries (Cont.)

There was a tannery near where Soper's Hall now stands, carried on by Gershom Orcutt. John Cook was a hatter near by.

The first store of which there is any knowledge was kept by Ebenezer Bonney at his place near Indian Head River Bridge. People came a long distance to buy. An aged lady remembers hearing her grandmother relate her mother and father going there in the fall to buy sufficient for the coming winter. Mr. Bonney also kept a tavern.

During the Revolutionary War Alexander Soper had a store and kept a tavern at the junction of Bonney Hill and Main St., where Walter Calder's first store was.

In 1823 Samuel Briggs built a store a few rods east of the Baptist Church. He traded here two years, then moved it half a mile east on the same road, and continued business until he sold to Martin Bryant 1830.

About that time Lemuel Hatch had a store in Hobart's building, near where the town hall now stands. It was afterwards burned.

-SHOE MAKING IN THE OLDEN TIMES

Nearly all of the shoe-makers of Hanson as far back as 1840 had a small shop or worked in a room in their own house. A man with several boys in his family kept them busy pricking and pegging shoes until they were large enough to last them and then they were soon capable to make an entire shoe.

Whigs and Democrats both made shoes, talked politics discussing the affairs of the Nation until both got hot under the collar and it was no uncommon thing to hear such expressions as "That is a Whig lie". When the debate waxed so fierce that they could find no words to express themselves, the leading Whig would start in singing a campaign song and all the boys joined in the chorus. After the song, the Democrats went home thoroughly disgusted with the other party, only to meet again the next evening to fight the same battle over again.

Brogans and boots were made at this time. They cost five dollars a pair and a man was not considered well dressed without these boots and a silk hat.

Kip brogans had two rows of pegs, six to the inch and the workmen received twenty-two cents a pair for making them, although in dull seasons they were made for seventeen cents a pair.

SHOE MAKING IN THE OLDEN TIMES (Cont.)

Women used to bind and stitch the shoes receiving three dollars for sixty pairs, until Elias Howe invented the needle used in the sewing-machine. Then the manufacturers had that work done in the shops and the women lost their job. The machine did a prettier job than could be done by hand and gave the shoes a nicer look.

Manufacturers soon began making Oxford ties, Creoles and Congress boots. Very few men could make a first class Congress boot and it was considered a feather in anyone's cap who was able to do so.

Boys still continued to prick and peg them for four cents a pair and many boys earned a pair of skates at seventeen cents and a seal skin cap which cost him twenty-five cents. (These seal skin caps were worn by old and young.)

Hanson had two shoe manufacturers, Isaac Foster and Benjamin Franklin Thomas.

Mr. Foster was Solon Simpson's grandfather. His shop was situated on Maquan Street in the village known as Fosterville, The shop has been made into a dwelling house and is now (1960) occupied by William G. Freel.

The Benjamin Thomas shop was situated on High Street opposite the residence of the late Benjamin Thomas, but at

the time the shoe shop was running, occupied by Luther Chandler.

The shop was run by steam power, but not being able to compete with the larger manufacturers, they were forced to give up their business and the shop was taken down and the lumber moved to Whitman.

About 1857 Lyman Blake completed his sewing machine and the shoe business had to be taken into the manufacture shop to save carting from the large to the smaller shops.

Blake's machine sewed all but the toe. MacKay invented the horn and that completed the machine. Blake sold out to MacKay for $40,000. and the machine is known as the MacKay.

From this time pegged shoes were made in less numbers each year. If shoe makers worked on sewed shoes they had to go to the large shops.

When the shoe-maker worked in his little shop he was independent, now he is whistled into the shop and whistled out, thereby losing his independence.

Daily papers were not plentiful in those days, so the shoemakers chipped in and had a Daily come every day to Bowker's store which was in Bourne's Hall, near where the

Town Hall now is. Samuel Rogers used to read aloud to the company. One evening Mr. Rogers being absent, Mr. taking up the paper and observing the words "Manassas Evacuated" printed in large type, smacked his lips and exclaimed "Great news, boys, great news." On being asked what it was, he read as follows:

"The troupes under General MacClellan went out to re co moter. They crossed the Pot o mac and when they arrived at Mon as to they found it was evocated."

WATER FOWLING IN HANSON

The early settlers being more or less dependent on wild life for their meat became aware of the possibilities of wild fowl capture to add to their diet.

Hanson being on the divide between the North River and Taunton River systems, had ample water courses in the town. Maquan Pond, through a small outlet stream, passed through several small pot holes and fed into Indian Head Pond; in turn, passing through fresh meadows to the Indian Head Brook. Several dams, mentioned elsewhere in this history, were constructed early in the settlement of the town, causing mill ponds to be found. Other small streams were also part of this system.

Our portion of the Great Cedar Swamp, as this area was known, now containing many cranberry bogs, was the head waters of the Taunton River system. It had many Great Ponds, smaller bodies of water and many small pot holes, all of which was conducive to the breeding of Water Fowl. These areas were not only native to many water fowl but were also stops for migrating birds. This presented an opportunity for the harvesting of much food and also provided income from sale in the markets of Boston and other nearby places.

Few people, except local members of the Audubon Society, realize that with the advent of warm months a migration begins from the South American everglades. This is the migration of the wading birds, the herons, to the rookeries in our Great

Cedar Swamp between Hanson and Halifax. The feeding grounds were the North River marshes.

The black-crowned night heron, a plain bird about twenty-six inches in length with a chunky body, was the most abundant.

The egret was snow white in color and stock-like in form. Its every movement was measured and graceful. They attain a length of forty-one inches and carry plumes at mating time which were once so esteemed by the feather trade that they nearly became extinct.

Although the early taking of birds was by the individual gunner, later it became a highly specialized process which developed into what was known as"gunning stands". At some time, each body of water in town has had one of these blinds. Permanent living quarters were built at these sites containing living, sleeping and working areas. They became dual purpose buildings in several cases, or should we say, gunning stands and shoe shops, particularly the stands at Indian Head and West Monponsett Ponds, where it was possible a few years ago to find leather scraps where shoes and boots had been cut and pegged.

The lost art might be briefly recorded as follows:
The living quarters were completely camoflaged by trees and cut brush placed so that they could not be distinguished from without. The buildings of a substantial nature had all disappeared from the scene.

Water Fowling in Hanson (Cont.)

The blinds at the larger stands on Indian Head, Wampatuck and West Monponsett Ponds were rather elaborate affairs and were sometimes over 100 feet in length. These consisted of board or slab fences five to six feet high set less than a gunshot from the shore of the ponds. They were well covered with camouflage material, boughs, grass and, in some cases, trees were planted to hide them.

The shores of the bodies of water were called "Beaches" and they were generally built up with stones and filled with white sand.

The general method of decoying the wild fowl to within shooting distance was considered to be of a highly technical nature.

The "gunners" (or shoe workers) usually arrived at the stands late in the summer and brought their work with them. Time not spent in the gunning activities was utilized in the cutting and pegging of shoes.

They occupied these stands until after the winter freeze-up. It was also customary to catch fish through the ice and sell that to the markets.

The severe winter months were not productive from the gunning viewpoint and the stands were generally unoccupied until the ice went out and the northern migration set in. The gunning and shoe business then continued until late April.

After the advent of the shoe factory, this practice dwindled and finally ceased altogether.

The water fowl numbers were diminished to a certain degree causing legislation which changed the market gunning to a strictly sporting proposition.

The enticing of water fowl was accomplished as follows: Domesticated ducks of wild ancestry, trapped by the early followers of the business, were fastened by a leather thong, called a strad, on the beach. The leather, of course, being a by-product of the boot and shoe cuttings. A stake was driven into the ground and swivels attached to the "strad" so that the live "coy" was able to move about in a restricted manner.

Behind the blind, boxes were provided that contained more ducks. Upon sight of wild birds, these were taken from the boxes by hand and thrown over the blind resulting in a forced short flight over the ducks on the beach, causing them to quack or call out, attracting the wild birds into gun range.

Wooden replicas of ducks called "blocks" were placed in the water. It was considered a highly experienced knowledge as to where and how far from the shore these were to be placed. In the early days these were arranged on cedar poles of a triangular shape and fastened to the bottom by grapevines or bull briar runners. Later, rope and wire were used with bags of sand for anchors.

These"blocks" were of general home manufacture and their similarity to wild fowl was entirely up to the artistic nature of the maker. They were placed in groups reaching far into the water, intending to cause wild birds to see them from some distance.

The same general method was used for geese with the following additions:

Geese by nature being mated for life were subjected to separation by placing one on the beach and the other in a pen behind the blind. The gunners, by different arrangements, had the goslings of the particular pair in a "fly pen", so called, generally on a hill or built up platform near the stand. When wild geese appeared, and at the proper time, these were released and flew out over the beach and water, causing the parent fastened on the beach to honk or call loudly, which in turn created a disturbance of all the other geese in the stand, who in turn joined in inviting the wild flock to light. They as a rule "lit" at or near the blocks and were then, by creating further calling of the "beach team" called to the range of the gunners.

The last few years of gunning was a highly exploited sport carried on by clubs of many members and having elaborate stands. There were many goose and duck decoys kept in Hanson until the early thirties, when live decoys were prohibited.

CHARCOAL BURNING

Charcoal making is an ancient industry. We know it played an important role in our Colonial days because the remains of charcoal pits are to be found in Hanson.

No coal being available at that time, charcoal became the chief fuel in industry because it gave a higher heat than wood in its normal state.

Charcoal was used for heat in the iron founderies and forges in our town.

Hard woods - such as maple, birch, and ash - were "burned" for use in the smelting of iron ore.

Softer woods were burned into a quality of charcoal used for the fireplaces in homes.

The "burning" was sometimes done in pits, some of which were 50 to 100 feet in circumference, and 12 to 15 feet deep a pit having 15 to 16 cords of wood laid in it would produce about 600 bushel of charcoal.

This fuel was produced by burning the wood with a restricted supply of air. The heat of combustion evaporated gases leaving almost pure carbon.

The wood was cut in short pieces, stacked in layers in the pit, covered with earth and burned from the center outward.

Charcoal Burning (Cont.)

A "chimney" of cordwood was left in the middle of the heap to be closed when combustion was started. Draft vents were made at the bottom of the pile to be closed or opened as the state of burning or direction and strength of wind required.

As the burning progressed, vent holes had to be made in the walls of the pile to release gases, otherwise the whole thing could explode.

When a certain point was reached, and the danger of exploding passed, all the holes were closed and the pile covered with more earth and sealed by wetting and keeping it damp for eight to ten days.

It required from two to three weeks of day and night watching and the services of several men to complete the process.

After the pile had cooled, the charcoal was pulled out with an implement something like a potato hook. This was a dirty task, and unless great care was used, fire could break out from a live coal and the whole lot burned into ashes.

IRON ORE INDUSTRY

Another very early industry of our forefathers, and one of which there is little evidence today, was that of smelting iron.

This work employed groups of men and so became a source of income to the community.

Nature appears to have manufactured an abundance of iron ore of very good quality in Indian Head Pond, and also some of the swamps in this area.

The ore was found in varying sizes, small nodules in the shallow waters near shore, and in the deeper water the lumps were larger, about the size and shape of a fig. Out of the lower depths large lumps of a poorer quality were found.

These were fished up with long-handled tongs and loaded onto ox-drawn wagons to be delivered to the various founderies.

The smaller nodules yielded from 20% to 30% iron. The larger, blacker ore was a poorer quality, used for smelting with the better ore.

These ores brought about $6.00 a ton delivered at the furnace.

The early furnaces were sturdy stone towers, built with sloping walls, on a square stone foundation. From the center, a stone chimney rose to about thirty feet in the air.

Iron Ore Industry (Cont.)

An oval oven was enclosed in the tower into which fuel ore and flux could be put in layers, and from the bottom of which molten iron was run off into sand molds to form "pigs".

The furnace fires, using charcoal made near by in a pit were blown with big double bellows, worked by water power.

The "flux" was oyster shells or ground lime-stone and served to sieve impurities from the ore. It took more than fifty men to operate a forge. Sometimes slaves were used.

According to tradition, some of this ore went into an anchor for the "Constitution" when she was built.

Iron ore went to the Plymouth ship yards, and was also used in the ships built on the North River.

Slag, a by-product of the iron, is sometimes found today along the sites of these founderies.

WEAVING

Weaving was the occupation at which many worked. They had private looms in their homes, and obtained the cotton yarns from nearby factories. We are told that "work was done by the best people" and the daughters were not too proud to toil day by day to earn the pennies which, in some cases formed the nucleus of fortunes.

They were paid by the yard for their work and among the families who operated looms we find the names of Squire Joseph Smith, Rev. Gad Hitchcock, Isaac Barker, and Noah Bonney.

MILLS ON INDIAN HEAD BROOK AND RIVER

The early settlers, who made their homes along the coast, soon found that more fertile soil and better pasture land was needed. The move inland thus began. Soon the value of the abundant forest and the advantages of fresh water became apparent.

Perhaps the earliest and most profitable industry employing more than one man was lumbering. An ample market for this product, ship building, was not far away.

To make trees into timber at that time was long, hard work. The trees were felled with axes, then the "squaring" was done. First the log of the required length, was set across two other logs and braced so it could not roll. Then a man called a "hewer", with an adz, chipped the log the whole length, until the face of the timber was as large as the log would allow. It was then turned and the chipping was repeated on the other three sides. Squaring a big timber took about two hours. The broadaxe had a short handle and almost straight blade and was kept very sharp. The last layer of the chips was hewn away with the edge, making a smooth finish.

In some very old houses these timbers still may be found.

Planks and boards for floors and walls were made from the squared timber by two men using a "pit saw", or sash saw set in a frame. The piece of squared timber was placed on supports across a deep pit. One man sawed above ground following a chalked mark. His assistant, the pit man, worked below and furnished the pull for the downward cutting stroke.

This took many hours of hard labor before enough lumber for a house was ready.

Man has always sought easier and faster ways of production, using what nature has provided when possible. Thus Col. Nathaniel Thomas in surveying the lands of the Major's Purchase early noted the possibilities of this area and was satisfied to receive 250 acres in payment for his services.

Here was water to give power to a mill. The beavers, having built a partial dam on Indian Head Brook, made it an easier project to complete. In 1694-1695, tradition tells us this was done and it was the first dam in Plymouth County to be used to provide power for a water wheel.

This mill is named in old records of 1712 and 1716 as the "Colonel's Old Mill". In 1722 it is recorded as the Isaac Thomas Saw Mill. In 1737 it is spoken of as the Edward Thomas Mill. He was Isaac's son. It was in the Thomas family from 1695 until about 1829.

It was then sold to Benjamin Hobart of Abington who put in machinery for cutting tacks, as by this time the shoe business had built up a market for tacks, wooden pegs having been used for many years.

The mill was burned in 1835 but was rebuilt and continued making nails and tacks until 1848, when Nathaniel Cushing bought two-thirds of the building for a trunk factory, Ezra Phillips buying the other one-third to continue the tack business.

Mills on Indian Head Brook and River (Cont.)

It was later sold to Henry Brigham of South Abington who made tacks there until it burned again in 1859.

It was rebuilt and used as a saw mill until about the turn of the century.

Quite a business center developed near the mill during the years. There was a grist mill built and operated by Dea. David Beal across the road. On the land now occupied by the Hanson Town Hall was a general store kept by Mr. G. T. Bowker. Across the road near the corner of Winter Street was a blacksmith's shop owned by one of the Thomas' and nearby on Liberty Street a shoe shop operated by Mr. Ramsdell.

Following the Brook down stream we find - about a mile before it connects with the Drinkwater River - that a mill was erected here in 1715.

Old records read that on "May 30th, 1715, Joshua Cushing, Joseph Foord, Thomas Barker, and Thomas Howland entered into agreement in regard to a saw mill they were building on Indian Head Stream, near the road that leads to the little Cedar Swamp."

In 1827, Dr. Samuel Barker sold the right for mill privileges to Elihue Hobart who erected a tack factory and employed Hervey Dyer as agent.

About this time the large gambrel-roofed house was built on the hill to accomodate the working men with room and board.

For many years Mr. Joseph Foster from Maquan Street (then called Fosterville) walked each day to work in the mill.

The mill was later sold to Mr. Luther Howland who made tacks until it burned about 1850. It was never rebuilt. The mill pond and dam are destroyed, but the heavy stones of the foundation are scattered there yet.

The old house still stands, the process of restoration by its present owner, Mr. George Hefler, bringing it back to its former grace and beauty.

Following the brook in its northeasterly course, it soon merges with the Drinkwater River. Here occurs a widening and more rapidly flowing stream, as it runs along between hills and woods. It is now known as the Indian Head River, until it joins the North River on its way to the sea.

Here is a spot of natural beauty. As the river flows over its rocky bed, its waters are churned white, its banks are green, and shaded with tall trees, and flowering shrubs also add color to the scene.

One of the most successful mills was established here, which for many years afforded steady and remunerative income to the owners and their employees.

In 1720, Capt. Joseph Barstow and Benjamin Stetson were granted two acres on Indian Head River between Pine Hill

and Rocky Run Brook for a forge and finery. A bridge was built across the river and iron ore from Indian Head Pond was hauled by oxen to be smelted here.

Capt. Barstow died in 1728. It was then operated by his sons until 1795 when the property was sold to Robert Salmond of Pembroke and Nathaniel Cushing of Hanson (and others).

In 1813, they were making large anchors for the government and much of the ore from Indian Head Pond was used in the making of their implements.

In 1828, this forge was sold to Thomas Hobart of Hanson who took into the firm John Sylvester. At this time there was also a grist mill and a tack factory operated by Mr. Sylvester.

About 1853, the old forge was purchased for $3100 by Mr. Edward Y. Perry who organized a partnership with Ezra Phillips and Martin Stetson under the firm name of E. Y. Perry & Company for the purpose of carrying on a tack and nail factory.

Mr. Perry moved his business from Project Dale, and Mr. Phillips moved his business and machinery from the old Thomas Mill.

The financial panic of 1856 soon overtaking them, Mr. Stetson became discouraged and withdrew. Mr. Perry and Mr. Phillips continued in business together until 1874.

Mills on Indian Head Brook and River (Cont.)

Their business relations were pleasant. They always honored and spoke well of each other. Each had talents in a different direction - what one lacked, was found in the other.

Under such practical men, the business increased rapidly and was very successful.

In 1874 Mr. Perry's other interests became so large, he felt obliged to withdraw. Mr. Phillips filled this vacancy by taking his two sons, Calvin T. and Morrill A. into the firm under the name of E. Phillips & Sons Tack Factory. And thus it remained for many years. In 1882, Mr. Ezra Phillips died and his sons carried on the business under the same firm name.

In 1880 the mill employed about fifty hands, running seventy tack and nail machines, a rolling mill, and also a machine shop operated by a 60 horse-power engine.

The passage of time brought about a new, cheaper way to make nails from wire. The market for the handcut square nails was eliminated.

On retirement of the firm, the shops were dismantled, the machinery sold, and the buildings taken down. Today not a sign of this prosperous business remains.

Mr. Perry and Mr. Phillips were both born in Hanson, Mr. Ezra Phillips was born on October 10, 1810 on Brook Street within sound of the waters of the brook he was to put to use.

Mills on Indian Head Brook and River (Cont.)

It is not difficult to think of him spending many hours of his boyhood fishing from its banks or following its course to the junction of the North River. Its fascination may have decided the course of his life's work, because as a young man he began making tacks and nails in the old Thomas Mill.

He married Catherine Tilden, Grand-daughter of the Rev. Gad Hitchcock, first minister of Hanson, who lived near the mill.

Mr. Edward Y. Perry was born in Hanson November 4, 1812 and married Mary Oldham, daughter of David Oldham of Pembroke. They resided in Hanover and to his energy and business ability, according to an historian of Hanover, much of the town's early growth is due. He had many successful industrial interests, such as real estate, mills, and factories. He was President of the Hanover Branch Railway, prosperous at one time but discontinued many years ago.

Their only child died very young, but Mr. Perry was always interested in young people.

He was a man of wealth but thoughtful of the needs of others. In his will, probated in 1899, he left a legacy providing for worthy poor, and instructing the trustees to supply means by which capable young people of Hanover and Pembroke could be helped to secure an education. Many in the three towns have been helped to prepare for their life work by the kindly thought of this man.

Mr. Perry died in Hanover in 1899; and he and his wife are buried there.

THE THOMAS MILL

The mill property on Wampatuck Pond near Town Hall corner has an interesting history.

It is the oldest mill privilege in this section, the dam having been built in 1694-5 by Colonel Nathaniel Thomas of Marshfield who had purchased of the Indians a large tract of land in the vicinity.

Colonel Thomas erected a mill here for his son Isaac. The mill long remained in the Thomas family descending from father to son. In 1712 the old mill was written in the old records "Colonel's Mill". In 1716 it was spoken of in a deed as "The old saw-mill called Co. Thomas's Saw Mill".

After 1737 a grist mill was erected and run by Deacon David Beal.

Benjamin Hobart of Abington bought the mill about 1829 and machinery was put in for cutting tacks. The mill burned in 1835, was re-built and used as a tack factory until 1848.

About that time Nathaniel Cushing bought two-thirds of it for a tack factory and Ezra Phillips bought the other third for the manufacture of trunks. Nathaniel Cushing sold his share to A. J. Taft and Flavel Shurtleff. It was from here that E. Y. Perry and Ezra Phillips formed a partnership.

Later Henry H. Bringham of Whitman bought the whole factory and manufactured tacks here until it was burned in 1859.

The Thomas Mill (Cont.)

A saw-mill was subsequently built by E. Phillips and Sons. Its later owners have been the Lot Phillips Company of West Hanover who disposed of it in 1910 to the Wampatuck Cranberry Company.

THE MILL ON DRINKWATER RIVER
1716 - 1960

Hatch's Mill was located on Drinkwater Rivwr near Teague's bridge, then called Hatch's bridge, on Winter Street. The mill was built in 1716 by James Hatch, Amos Turner, Joseph Barstow, Samuel Barstow, Michael Wanton, and others, according to an old record which reads they "entered into an agreement in regard to a saw mill they are building nearr where the line between Scituate (Hanover) and Abington crosses the river near Teague's bridge."

It is interesting to know that this mill has been in several towns. The Abington line at that time came as far south as the Major's Purchase Rock and east to the Drinkwater River on Winter Street. Abington ceded this section to Hanover in 1727. Hanover ceded it to Pembroke in 1754 and Pembroke in turn ceded it to Hanson in 1820.

For over one hundred years, it served as a saw mill and a grist mill. It was a busy place until the supply of trees large enough for building purposes gave out. In 1814, it was purchased by a stock company with a capital of $20,000 who erected a new mill for the weaving of cotton sheeting.

Many of the women of the town had their own looms and were expert weavers. They now obtained the cotton yarn from the mill, and were paid so much a yard for weaving. The small amount of money received was the principal income of the women of the vicinity. The work was done by families

of the best people, and daughters were not too proud to earn in this way, the money that formed a nucleus of independent fortunes later, in some cases.

In squire Joseph Smith's home on Maquan Street, there were three looms and his daughters wove for many years.

At the Gad Hitchcock home on High Street, there were two looms probably worked by slaves, as were the looms at the Cushing home on Washington Street. At Isaac Bowen Barker's home, the father of Dr. Bowen Barker, there were three looms in use.

Among the expert weavers, contests were held. A note written and signed by A. Jane Bryant of Bryantville tells the story of a contest in weaving between two well-know sisters, Emily Damon and Celia Josselyn. Each would weave all day beginning at a time agreed upon. Emily started first, and working all day wove seventeen yards of cotton. Celia took her turn the next day, and working the same number of hours wove sixteen yards of cotton. This was considered quite a record of weaving, even for experts!

As in other industries, time and progress brough changes. The company renovated the mill, put in a turbine water-wheel and power looms. The business prospered, and a boarding house was built; and a general store was opened. Isaiah Perry and his brother Edward Y. Perry worked in this store when they were young men.

The Mill on Drinkwater River 1716 - 1960 (Cont.)

Owing to the competition of larger factories in Lawrence, Fall River, and New Bedford, where cotton could be made cheaper, this prosperous business gradually decreased.

In 1837, Ezra Phillips, who had been working in the Old Thomas Mill, hired room and power to make wooden pegs. Later, Cobb and Cushing used the building as a saw mill. Mr. Theodore Cobb used the boarding house as a private residence.

In 1852, the factory, store and house were completely burned. Soon after, Elijah Cushing erected another saw mill here and with his son George and Theodore carried on the business until it also burned in 1879.

Ezra Phillips & Sons bought the water privilege intending to bring their Brockton tack business here, but located on the site between Pine Hill and Rocky Run River. In 1889 they erected the present building to be used as an annex to their larger factory. Since their retirement, it has been used as a machine shop by the Industrial Nut and Bolt Machine Company; and in 1960, the Barbour Shoe Welting Company are doing a good business there.

The mill dam has been rebuilt and the factory pond and its surroundings make an attractive spot. The old turbine wheel is still in use providing power for the work being done there.

For over 240 years this mill has been a source of income to Hanson people and is surrounded by prosperous and well-kept homes.

COL. JESSE REED NAIL AND TACK MILL ON ROCKY RUN BROOK

At the junction of Indian Head River and Rocky Run Brook Col. Jesse Reed erected a grist mill at the foot of a steep ledge on the Hanson and Pembroke side of the stream in the year 1812. For power Col. Reed first erected a dam, at a considerable expense a short distance above the mouth of Rocky Run Brook. But this proved defective, and he then erected one farther up stream, constructing a wooden trough, a quarter mile in length, leading to his mill, the water being delivered through the roof.

Evidence of the location of this trough were still visible in 1910. A cable led from the mill to the pond and, by working this cable at the mill, he could lift the gate at the pond, letting the water flow to the water wheel, and closing it the same way. (What work to develop power enough for a small mill.)

This mill was not in service too long, as he constructed a dam across Indian Head River a few rods above the grist mill, and he erected a tack and nail factory. This dam is still visible, and tacks as well as other evidences of his work can be gathered here.

Before coming to this location, Mr. Reed invented the original tack and nail making machines, which were patented in 1802. These machines made the nails from iron rods. His next invention was for the construction of a machine for cutting and heading in one operation. On this machine a patent was obtained but was soon laid aside.

Col. Jesse Reed Nail and Tack Mill on Rocky Run Brook (Cont.)

About this time he perfected his noted Reed Machine for making nails and tacks, putting it into operation at this mill on Rocky Run Brook in Hanson. This machine, with very little change, is still in use today wherever nails are made. He finally sold his patents on it for $20,000.

One fortune after another was put into inventions that were to make the work of man easier. Among the twenty or more implements he made and patented, many were of great importance to the community, such as a machine for steering ships, a rotary and other kinds of pumps, which were very much in use at that time, cotton gins and treenail machines.

He was a man of perseverance and great industry, and was well known and respected in the neighboring towns, where, at times, he was in business. Col. Jesse Reed was born in North Bridgewater in 1778, and died in Marshfield on March 22, 1867. Thus ended the active life of an ambitious inventor who helped create an industry that thrived in Hanson for over a hundred years.

References: Barry's History of Hanover
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MOORE'S MILL 1887

This grist mill was on Poor Meadow River near the North Hanson railroad crossing

It was originally a forge built and conducted by Theodosius Moore soon after he bought the land in 1704 from Indian Chieftan Jeremiah Momontang and Abigail his wife.

The land belonged to Abigail's deceased brother, Josiah Wampatuck.

The mill was owned and operated at various times by different owners, in 1880 the owner was Ethan Monroe.

John Ibbitson Worked at this mill.

Abbot Keene, another workman, cut one of his fingers nearly off, while using the edging machine. He grabbed a hammer and chisel and finished the job - then took a piece of tobacco and went back to work.

The pond bore the name of Moore's Pond, altho in more recent years it was known as the Forge pond.

STONE QUARRY

There was a valuable stone quarry in Hanson located off Main Street, about where the John Foster Lumber Company storage shed is now standing.

In the days of ore smelters in our local towns, there was a demand for hearthstones to withstand the heat at the aprons of the smelters.

The stone taken from this Hanson quarry was composed of granite with mica all through its structure, making it especially heat resistant, which was ideal for its use at the furnaces.

JOSEPH WHITE ESTATE

Joseph White, the son of Joseph and Eliza Bonney White was born June 14, 1832 in the old homestead - where Raymond Hopkins now lives on West Washington Street.

Joseph White, Sr. was a tanner of leather having his place of business on the homestead grounds.

Joseph, Jr. being the oldest son was taken in by his father to learn the tanning business. He served seven years after attending the district school, located on Holmes Street, a short way north of the Hannibal Hamlin Place.

At the age of twenty-one, his father gave him $100.00 and a new suit of clothes. From then on, he was on his own. He had learned every operation in tanning but had no desire to continue in the business. He did love horses and trading so took the $100.00, went to Brighton, Massachusetts, bought a horse, harness and buggy. From then on he was master of his own destiny.

As time went on he had a couple of sheds built on the building now owned by Charles Oertal of Hanson. This was the original White property.

He purchased a few buggies, delivery wagons and the like from Boston dealers. These were all on promissory notes to be paid for every six months at 6% interest, carrying charge.

It was not long before he had built a two and one-half story carriage repository and a stable that would house fifty

horses and cows, with a hay-loft capacity of three hundred tons of hay. On the roof of the stable was a wind mill that was used to power the water up in a cistern for the use of the animals in the barn.

Shortly after the fire that burned out the horse and carriage section in Boston, around Kneeland Street, some of the carriage manufacturers of Amesbury told Mr. White that if he would build a repository large enough, they would stock it with all types of hacks, buggies, delivery wagons, butcher wagons, etc., and he could pay for them as they were sold. He built a repository 200 feet long and two stories high a little to the north west of the stable. From then on business began to boom.

He had a man out west buying horses, and went to Boston twice a week to buy horses. These horses were shipped to North Hanson depot or ridden out by stable boys. Many a time have six horses with their manes and tails braided and tied, been seen ridden abreast, with one big halter, heading for Mr. White's stable. The rider's fee was $2.00 plus $.50 allowance for dinner and train fare back.

On the south side of West Washington Street were two, two-story high buildings, opposite the duck pond. There he had his blacksmith shop, wheelrightshop and paint shop.

The number of men working for Mr. White were - two blacksmiths, two painters, a harness maker, a wheelright,

four stable men, two carpenters, and two general laborers.

A pigeon loft between the office and carriage repository housed about 2000 pigeons, and in the little pond were 150 ducks and geese.

In front of the office was a large cage for foxes, guinea pigs, ten peacocks, turkeys, bantam hens and roosters.

Under the barn were 100 pigs of all sizes from sows to little ones. The animals were kept to interest the children while Mr. White was trading with their parents.

In 1859, Mr. White married Miss Elsiedana Perry of West Hanover, a former Hanson school teacher.

From that union five children were born - Josephine, Bartlett, Catharine, Howard and Bernice.

One of his sons, Howard, trained for a horse trade, Mr. White, in giving him advice said, "Remember one thing - When you trade horses, don't bleed a man to death on the first trade. Just take a fair profit and in that way you still retain his respect and you haven't lost a customer."

During Mr. White's business experience he handled over 28,000 different horses, many went to the U. S. Government to be used in the cavalry and transportation services.

Joseph White Estate (Cont.)

No man in Plymouth County was known better than Joseph White for his kindness to all people, especially those who were sick or in need of help. He was named the "David Harem of Massachusetts". He started from scratch and through forward dealings, personality and a love of his fellow men, he acquired a substantial financial reward.

JOHN FOSTER LUMBER COMPANY

John Foster was born March 12, 1842 in Pembroke, Massachusetts in the house where Wilfred MacLeod nowl lives. He was reared on the farm owned by his father who was a ship carpenter by trade and gave much of his time to this occupation while the boys cared for the farm work.

Young John found plenty to do assisting with the farm work and in the attendance at the neighborhood schools. The feeble health of the mother made it necessary for the young members of the family to take on greater responsibilities. As the years passed, John was getting that experience and self-dependence that in after years made him the successful business man that he was.

He had hardly become of age when he was now and then investing his earnings into wood lots in that locality. Those he had cut off and made into lumber. Up to 1874 he had hired the sawing done but in that year his business increased to the point where he felt it would pay him to set up a mill of his own and he bought a mill to be run by water power. This mill was known at that time as the "Hobomock Mill" situated near Hobomock pond. Later a grist mill was added and a box mill or factory; all this in his native town.

His business continued to increase and in 1879 he bought

a mill in South Hanson previously owned by Barnabas Everson, situated about where Clark's store now stands.

This old structure burned shortly after he had bought it and he rebuilt a mill further along where the John Foster Lumber Company lumber pile now is near the railroad track.

To this new mill he moved his outfit from the Hobomock mill in Pembroke, all except the saw mill, to South Hanson. Within a couple of years a fire swept the entire mill away. Mr. Foster was not discouraged by this reverse and soon had the ruins covered with a more modern mill and was once more on the way to prosperity.

In December 1890 history repeated itself, and the mill and its contents were once more reduced to ashes. Once again he met the emergency squarely, and hardly had the fire died away, when the waste land was again being covered with even more substantial and modern buildings and the mill was once more in successful operation.

In the beginning of the mill Mr. Foster employed only three or four men, but the time came when an average of 150 hands were employed inside and out and the business was looked upon as one of the most valuable concerns in the town.

Millions of feet of lumber were handled yearly and from

it went building materials of many kinds, as well as wooden boxes of many kinds and sizes.

For a period of 35 years packing cases for Walter Baker & Company of Dorchester, Massachusetts, makers of Baker's Cocoa, were supplied by this mill.

Mr. Foster also erected a cooper shop where cranberry barrels were made to cater to the cranberry trade. This building stood east of Mr. Foster's residence and near the railroad.

In 1904 the business was incorporated under the laws of Massachusetts as the John Foster, Company, Mr. Foster becoming president and treasurer in which capacities he continued until his death on December 8, 1909 at the age of 67 years.

O. W. MAGLATHLIN & CO. SHOE TACK BUSINESS

The Onslo W. Maglathlin shoe tack business was started in 1886 in a building about opposite Miss Edith Anderson's home in North Hanson.

There was a whistle on the factory which blew at 7 a.m., 12 noon, and 5 p.m. thus adding its bit to quite a busy center.

Onslo W. Maglathlin was the brother-in-law of Mr. Baker Baker with whom he owned the business, selling in 1906 to Will Copeland.

The place burned when Mr. Copeland's coal sheds were destroyed.

LIVERY AND BOARDING STABLE

Sidney E. Ford ran a livery and boarding stable, opposite the South Hanson depot. He accommodated large or small parties at any time during the early nineteen hundreds.

This business formerly belonged to Edgar Clifford Bailey. Mr. Bailey was born in Pembroke June 27, 1857 and lived in that vicinity until October 1888 when he moved to South Hanson.

Shortly after, he purchased the express business, formerly known as Randall's Express, the coach line and mail routes between South Hanson, Bryantville, and Pembroke, and the livery stable at South Hanson station.

CENTRAL HOUSE

Alice M. Crocker was proprietor of the "Central House", opposite the South Hanson railroad station. This was a new home with steam heat (1903). She gave board by the day or week and ably managed the business for nearly three years, when she was obliged to retire due to ill health.

Mr. Livermore kept the hotel running. He engaged the services of a first-class Boston cook.

BURRAGE

Before 1900 Burrage was Bournetown. All land from the railroad track to the pond was owned by Charles Bourne. He had ten daughters and two sons, who built on land he gave them.

The business in Bournetown was Cedar business. Cedar was used to make posts, rails, and shingles.

Albert C. Burrage was a close friend of Walter Damon, a lawyer, who convinced him to invest in copper stock. That is how he acquired his wealth.

In 1905 Mr. Burrage began his first work toward a big city. He bought all the land down from South Hanson station and west to the tracks. His idea was to dig peat moss out of the swamps and use it for fuel. He dug a canal to float the peat up in barges. This immense ditch started at a point on Stump pond and went clear through to Sammy's Neck, a distance of over two miles. "Al" Hammond was boss of the Portuguese digging the canal.

The first factory built was the Wirt Manufacturing Company. This was used exclusively for the manufacture of everything porcelain connected with electrical appliances. The structure was divided into four compartments; an office, mixing room, moulding room, and firing room. The entire building is commodious, well lighted, and everything strictly

up to date for handling the work as expediously as possible. The raw material for this manufacturing enterprise was imported.

The Wirt building was situated just across the tracks on the right. A little farther north is the second building, and like the first, is composed of cement brick, manufactured by the company a short distance away. This building is used for the manufacture of tin foil - the raw material being imported.

Across the tracks from the factories a passenger station and freight house was erected by the N.Y. N.H. and Hartford Railroad Company. The building was constructed of cement bricks, which the Manufacturing Company furnished free of expense to the railroad. The station, named Burrage, was built on modern principles, with a view to usefulness nad an ornament to this fast growing section.

The town of Burrage begins where the workmen's houses were constructed on Pleasant Street. Houses were also built on Reed Street - a new street laid out opposite the Nelson Thomas' estate where Balboni's store is located, and christened Reed Street by Mr. Damon. The Dave McIntosh house was the hostlery.

Mr. Burrage set out the maple trees on Pleasant Street and Indian Head Street so that wherever his carriage went it would roll in shade.

Facilities for shipping products were provided by a side track which was laid out by the factories towards the so-called "Sammy's Neck".

For the Burrage intereste, Walter E. Damon asked the managers of the N.Y. N.H. and Hartford road to stop the 5 o'clock train, southbound at Bournetown for the accommodation of workmen from Kingston, the company agreed to do this if Mr. Damon guaranteed ten passengers. This was in turn readily agreed to and in 1906 there were thirty passengers getting onto the train daily.

In addition to the Wirt Manufacturing Company and the Eastern Tinfoil Company, other corporations operating in Burrage were the Hanson Electric Light, Gas & Power Company, The New England Construction Company, the Halifax Garden and Wheeler Reflector Company.

Mr. Burrage expended large sums of money in the building of tenements, hotel, station, post office, etc. In the few months the factories ran a large number of hands were employed from in town as well as from neighboring villages.

In April 1908 the fatal blow fell on A. C. Burrage's pet scheme. He had had big plans for a model village, but with the filing of bankruptcy papers by the Wirt Manufacturing Company his entire concern was in serious straits. Besides the many creditors there are others in Hanson who are sorry they ever had any business dealings with the Burrage interests.

Mr. Burrage owned a fine summer residence named "The Needles", on the south side of Maquan Pond. It was situated amid a baautiful grove of pines and oaks and was the pride of Mr. Burrage's heart. On May 27, 1907 this building was totally destroyed by fire, including household furniture, clothing, jewels, and cash. By miracle only, did every member of the family make their escape.

THE CRANBERRY BUSINESS IN HANSON

Ephriam Albert Gorham was born in Harwich, Massachusetts, November 7, 1847. He received his education in the public schools there. In early life, he went fishing to the Grand Banks, also sailing in the coasting trade, and was captain of a number of fishing boats.

At the age of 33, he gave up his seafaring life, and commenced crangerry growing on the cape, later moving to Pembroke, Plymouth County, where he continued the cranberry business. Later he made his home in Hanson, still retaining his property and interests in Pembroke.

It is he who was the pioneer of the cranberry business, building bogs for other Hanson people because they did not know how.

John Foster and Richard Everson were the earliest cranberry growers in Hanson. They had already started when Mr. Marcus Urann entered the picture.

Mr. Urann was born October 2, 1874, in Sullivan, Maine. When only a little boy, he accompanied his mother on a visit to Franklin, Maine. There he saw some farms with small cranberry bogs and because they were neater and nicer farms than the others, he was impressed and said, "Some day I will own a cranberry bog."

Mr. Urann's first client was a Sam Kelly in North Easton, who owned a small bog. He realized eleven hundred percent in

seven years. This intrigued Mr. Urann and in 1897 he started a bog in Halifax. From that, he went on to put up a building on Main Street in Hanson (1912). He was convinced there was a big market for cranberries and he now began to think of canning.

He operated his own canning company until 1930 and then organized a co-operative, agreeing to stay on and manage until he canned half the crop. He retired in 1954, and turned to research. Through research the chief product brought out was cranberry juice. They also brought out a cranberry shade of lipstick and a combination of fruits. The real business, however, is canning the whole or jellied berries.

The income amounts to 20 million a year. This is a big income although in comparison to other food industries, it is a small industry.

They have spent a lot of money in advertising, and building up a demand for canned sauce under the brand name "Ocean Spray". Miss Ellen Stillman was Mr. Urann's advertising "girl". She brought out the idea of cranberry sauce with chicken. We have always had cranberry sauce with turkey, applesauce with pork, mint with lamb, but never an accompanying food with chicken.

In the five years previous to 1954 a million dollars a year was spent in advertising and the sale of cranberries since then has been increased 10% per year.

Now they are spending 5 million dollars a year on advertising. They had 58,000 barrels of cranberries this year (1960) and own 700 acres of bog.

As the advantages of canning have been proven, growers have come in and swamped the co-operative with berries in contrast to the lack of support given in 1937.

The purchasing function of the business was turned over to the Hanson Hardware Company, an independently owned and operated concern located in South Hanson and directed by Mr. David Clemons. Supplies need in the business were purchased through this organization. (1945).

HISTORY OF PLYMOUTH COUNTY HOSPITAL

The Plymouth County Hospital was built in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 286, of the Acts of 1916. Under this Act, the County Commissioners were authorized and directed to raise and expend such sums of moneys for acquiring land and constructing and equipping the hospital and for the purchase of alteration and enlargement of existing buildings as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

The Plymouth County Hospital was the first county hospital constructed under this Act and much time and thought went into the selection of the site. In this particular era it was considered essential that hospitals should be built at the highest altitude possible. Plymouth County not being very high above sea level at any part, presented somewhat of a problem. The Trustees also felt that central location should also be considered so that the hospital could be as near all parts of the County as possible. Therefore, diagonals drawn throughout the map of Plymouth County crossed in Halifax so search for land was made in this particular area. Bonney Hill was eventually selected inasmuch as it was the second highest land in Plymouth County and there were some 58 or 59 acres available. Because of World War I construction was not completed until 1919. The hospital was dedicated May 31, 1919, and the first patient was admitted June 14, 1919.

Dr. Bradford H. Pierce of Cambridge was appointed the first Superintendent and the hospitalization program for tuberculosis patients in Plymouth County was under way. A second building was added to the hospital and occupied in November, 1921, and thus the long struggle in the fight against tuberculosis for the whole of Plymouth County had begun.

Because the length of treatment was so long in the early days, patients required to stay an average of three years, waiting lists were established in all county hospitals and thus many patients had to wait several months before they could be admitted to the hospital for treatment. This prevailed until 1952. Subsequent to that date the length of stay of patients' has been gradually reduced to approximately one third of the original time and thus the actual number of patients in the hospital at any one time has diminished.

Inasmuch as our hospitals pioneered in tuberculosis, I am sure the future holds pioneer work in other chronic diseases. Dr. Pierce remained Superintendent until October, 1948, when the second Superintendent, Dr. Donald A. Martin was appointed and has remained to the present time.

The hospital has kept pace with modern medicine so that modern operating rooms, laboratories, and all departments necessary to a hospital are to be found at the Plymouth

County Hospital. It is to hospitals such as Plymouth County Hospital that the nation owes a great debt to the early pioneers in paving the way for the modern treatment of tuberculosis.

FULLER AND KEENE GARAGE

Fuller and Keene worked hard in building up their business in a garage on Main Street owned by Herman Beal.

August 18, 1922 it was reduced to ashes in a short time and the residences of Luke Hemmenway, Willard Howard, and Sylvanus Wilson were seriously threatened.

District Forest Warden Shepherd was on an electric which was passing just as the blaze started, and helped in getting streams from garden hose directed on the roof at Hemmenway's before the fire department arrived.

Fortunately while the garage had been nearly full of machines but a short time before, it had but one, which was destroyed in the fire, that of E. W. Ford.

ELIAS C. POOLE

Elias Poole was born in Rockland on September 1, 1822. He came to Hanson in 1848 and established himself in the business of blacksmithing. For nearly sixty years he was the "Village Blacksmith" and always ready to talk theology while shoeing the horse.

Mr. Poole was the first passenger to ride on the "Comet", the first locomotive that ever came into Hanson.

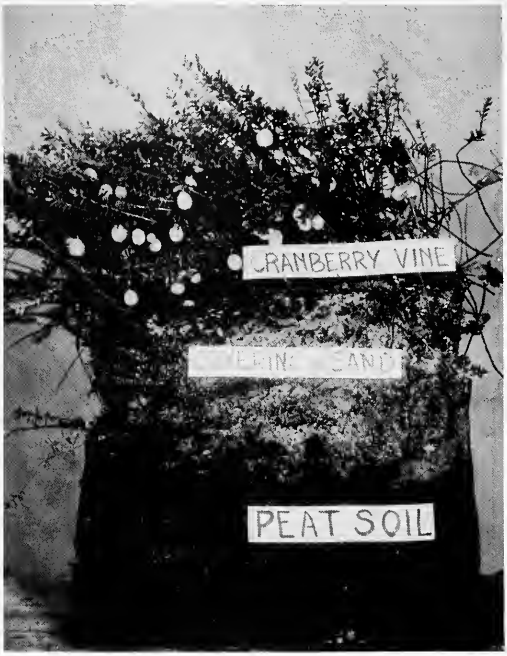
He walked from his blacksmith shop to the North Hanson railroad tracks, stood on the banking to wave as it puffed through on its way to Plymouth, and was delighted when the train stopped and the engineer invited him to ride to Plymouth and back.

Original Cranberry Packing House (1912)

The only plant of its kind in the country

Gilbert Brewster's Barrel Wagon

maximum load 150 Barrels - driver Stephen Collins



Section of a cultivated Cranberry Bog

Traditional Cranberry Scoop

Harvesting Implement

Tallying by measure

Method in which pickers were paid

Cranberry Picking by Hand with early snap scoops

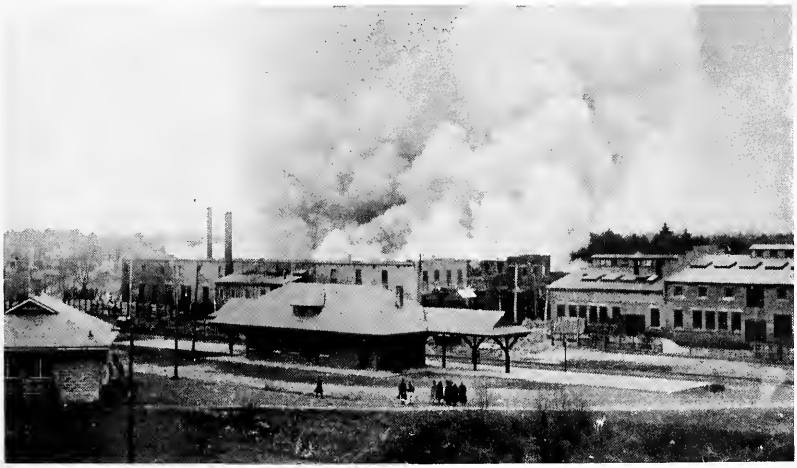
Flooding the Bog for frost prevention

The Cranberry Harvest

Final development of hand picking with scoop

A view of the Burrage Industries

and Railroad Station



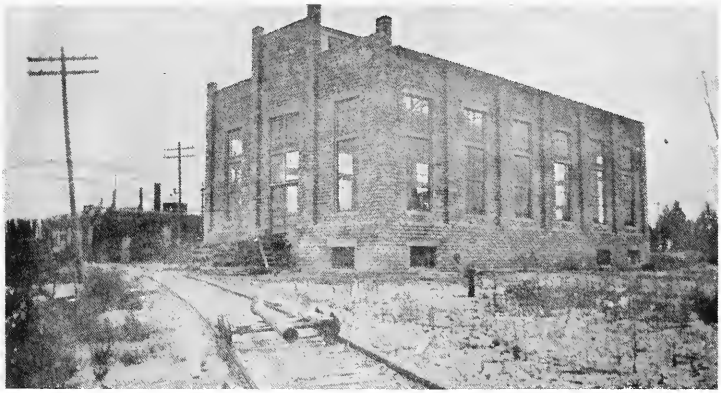
Fire at Atlantic Dye Co. Plant,

Burrage Industries - March 6, 1919

The Porcelain Plant - Burrage Industries

(1905) now Wheeler Reflector

(Div. of Franklin Research & Development Corp.)

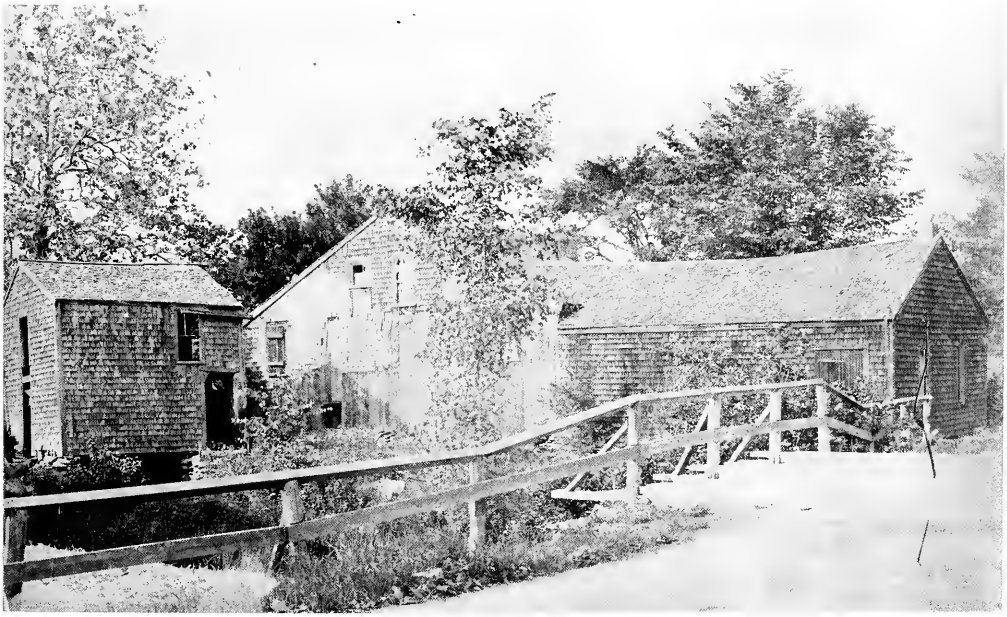


The Power House - Burrage Industries

Moore's Saw Mill In Flood Season,

site of an original grist mill (1887)

Poor Meadow River (West Washington St.)

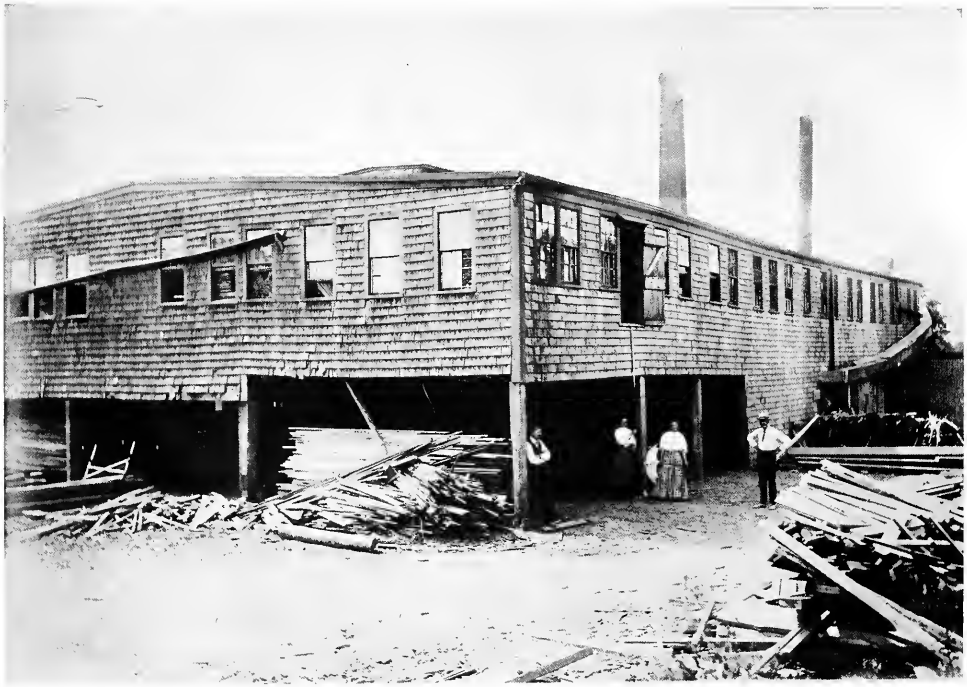


Another View of Moore's Saw Mill

Poor Meadow River (West Washington St.)

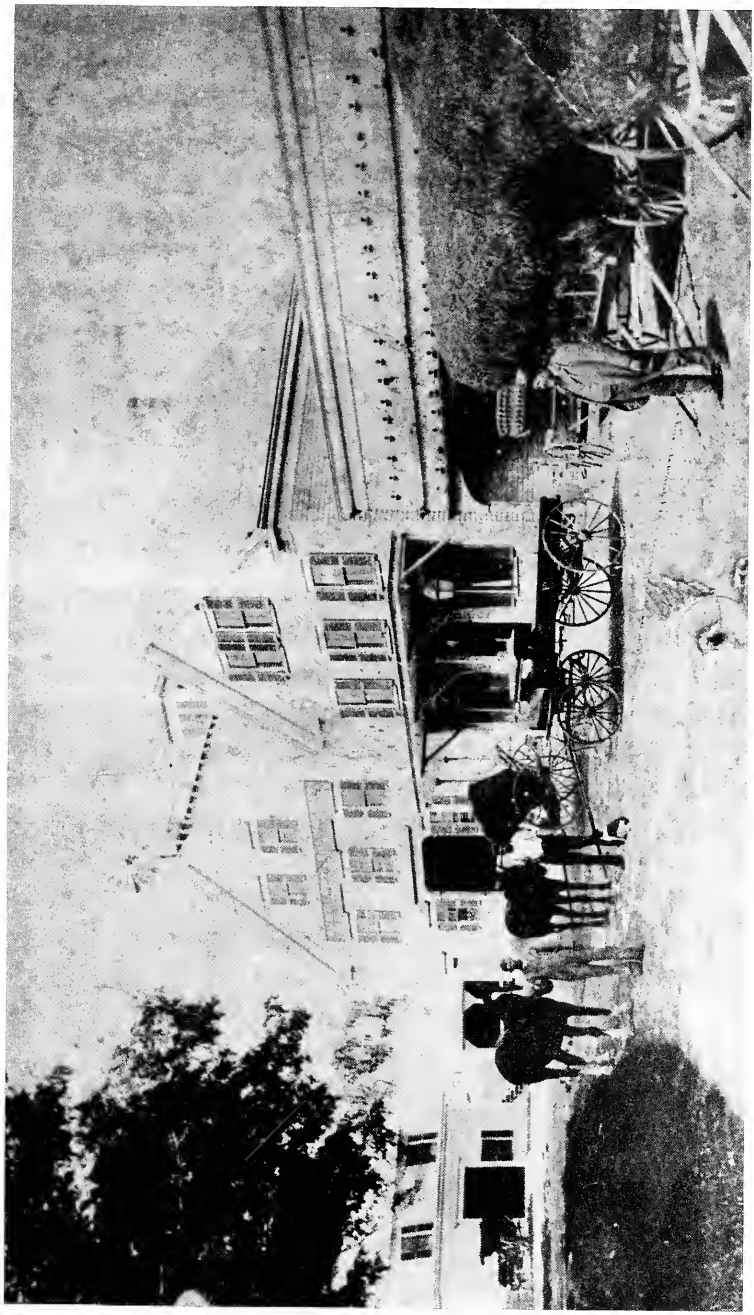
Thomas Saw Mill - Wampatuck Pond

(Liberty St.)



John Foster Lumber Co. Established 1879

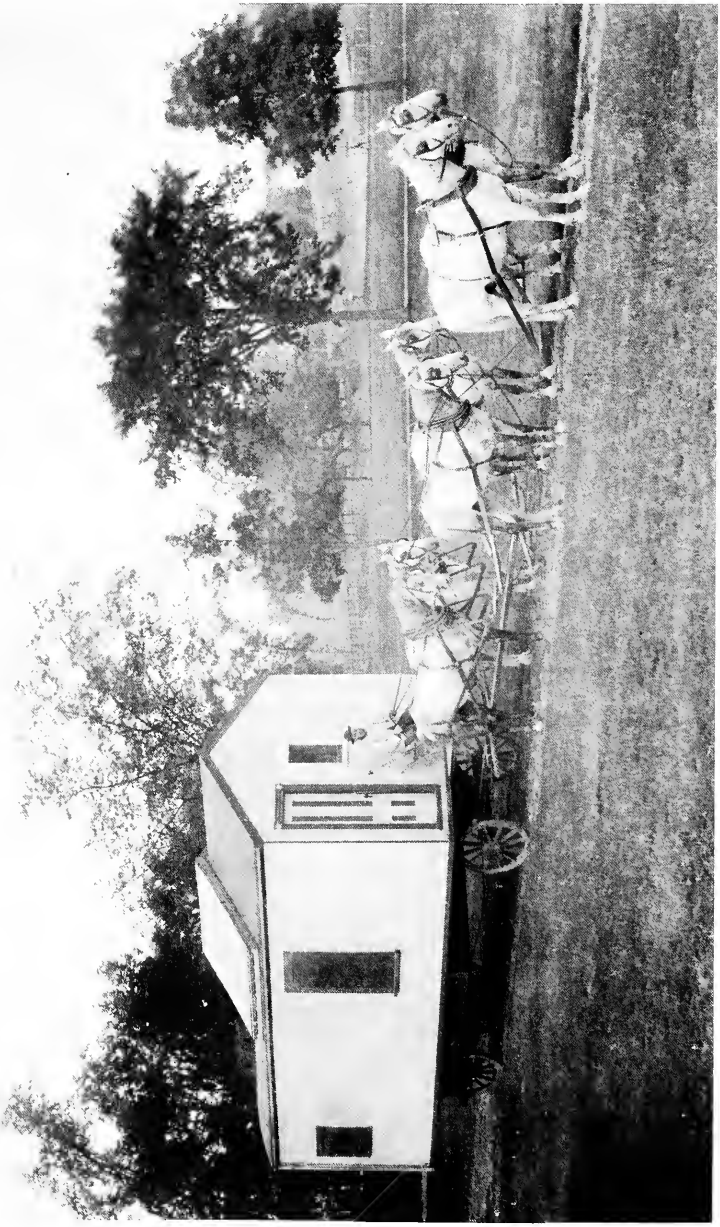
(Main St.)



Joseph White Estate (established 1883) West Washington St.

Buildings left to right: :
Carriage repository, stable, office, repository

People left to right:
"Tuck" Wright, Herbert Sprague, Joseph White Jr.



Wells Elliotts' Traveling Photography Studio

Ferdinand Cushing - driver

Small Family Shoe Shops

like this one were in many

backyards during the mid - 1800's

Plymouth County Hospital

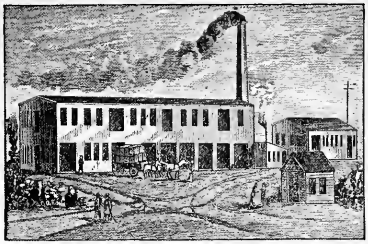
dedicated May 31, 1919 (High St.)

Hanson Observation Tower

To Prevent Forest Fire Loss (1913)

(High St.)

One Day Shooting at Fern Island, Hanson



Interest from date of invoice unless paid within 30 days.

South Hanson, Mass., 10 18 190 3

Mr Geo Tew

Bought of JOHN FOSTER,

MANUFACTURER OF

PACKING BOXES OF ALL KINDS.

CRANBERRY BARRELS AND EXCELSIOR.

DEALER IN CEDAR, LUMBER, WOOD, Etc.

—(FROM)—

W. S. ELLIOTT,

MANUFACTURER OF AND DEALER IN

Picture Frames of all Descriptions,

—ALSO—

Particular attention given to framing Soldiers Diplomas and large pictures of all kinds.

All sizes of picture mats made to order. Motto frames with mats from $.00 to $2.50. Oval and Wreath frames made to order, also frames of all sizes and prices.

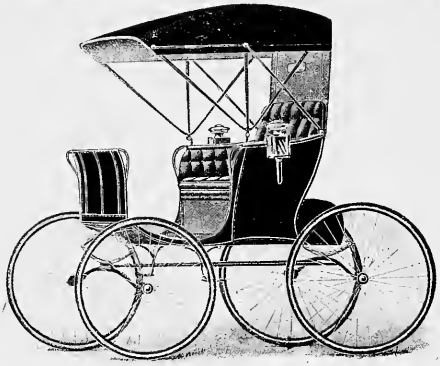
WORKED MOTTOS FOR SALE CHEAP.

Orders by mail or otherwise will receive prompt attention.

Opposite Post Office, No. Hanson, Mass.

Established 1833. **JOSEPH WHITE ESTATE** DEALER IN

FINE CARRIAGES

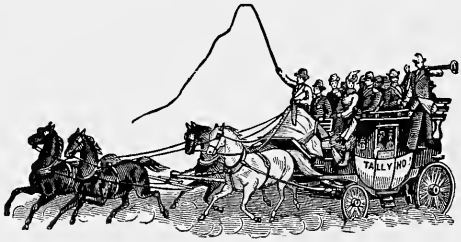


Horses, Business and Farm Wagons, Sleighs, Harness and Furnishings, Pneumatic, Solid and Cushion Rubber Tires.

NORTH HANSON, MASS.

SIDNEY E. FORD,

LIVERY AND BOARDING STABLES



Large or Small Parties Accommodated at Any Time.

AGENT FOR

New York and Boston Despatch Express.

Express leaves So. Hanson at 7 A. M. for Bryantville, Hanson Centre and No. Hanson, connecting with the 10.22 A. M. train for Boston.

B. F. LIVERMORE,
Painter and Paperhanger

House and Sign Painting, Gilding, Kalsomining, Glazing, Etc.

Full line of Wall Paper, Paints, Oils and Varnishes.

Also Dealer in BICYCLES and SUNDRIES,
FIRE ARMS and AMMUNITION.

Bicycle Repairing and Saw Filing.

Main St., opp. Railroad Station, SO. HANSON, MASS.

JOHN B. FABELLO, The Boston Barber.

FASHIONABLE HAIR DRESSER.

First Class work. Hair Cutting a Specialty. Satisfaction Guaranteed.

Cigars and Tobacco for Sale.

Main St., opp. Railroad Station, So. Hanson, Mass.

O. W. MAGLATHLIN. BARKER BAKER

O. W. MAGLATHLIN & CO.

MANUFACTURERS OF

Shoe Tacks.

Washington Street, No. Hanson, Mass.

MAQUAN SANITORIUM

F. S. THOMAS, M. D., LL. D., Physician.

HANSON, MASS.

In 1894, Dr. Thomas opened a sanitorium for the treatment of chronic diseases.

Special preparations have been made to successfully treat Nervous Prostration and Diseases of Women.

The Sanitorium is healthfully and beautifully located on Maquan street, near Maquan pond, a short distance from Gordon Rest, the sanitarium of the King's Daughters of Massachusetts.

Dr. Thomas is a graduate of Harvard Medical School, and for many years has been physician to Gordon Rest.

Beautiful Drives,
Many Ponds,
Several Cool Groves,
Golf Links,
Large Library.

Dr. Thomas would refer to Drs. Billings and Osgood of Rockland, Mrs. E. Trask Hill, State Secretary of the King's Daughters of Massachusetts and Polks Medical and Surgical Register of the United States and Canada.

His biography may be read in "Biographical Review of Plymouth County," "Physicians and Surgeons of America," and "Biography of Eminent Physicians and Surgeons of America."

SOCIAL LIFE AND MEETING PLACES

SOCIAL LIFE AND MEETING PLACES

Some may inquire "did folks work all the time?" Bless you - no! Diaries and scrap books have given us a clear picture of the social life in the early days.

On Sunday the people came together from all parts of the sparsely settled towns and between services, they had opportunity for social chats that were otherwise seldom possible.

In the Meeting House - or around the "horse sheds" - they could discuss household affairs, crop conditions, and town politics as well as carry on a little gossip about their neighbors.

Apparently such gossip would sometimes include the minister, for we find a report of a retired clergyman stating that, as a young man, he was advised never to accept a call to a church that had horse sheds!

During the week there were spelling schools, husking bees, sleigh rides and "kitchen sprees".

Kitchen sprees were a form of entertainment little known to the young people of the present generation. Sometimes these sprees took the form of a dance provided by some obliging fiddler who could be induced to wield the bow with little or no compensation beyond the love of fiddling.

These sprees are described by Josh Billings as follows:

> Now gather round the kitchen fire
> Pile on the chunks higher and higher
> Get out the fiddle and partners choose
> And stroker down in your cow-hide shoes."

Social Life and Meeting Places (Cont.)

That there was time for pleasure as well as for work is noted in a diary entry dated January 2, 1863 by Charles Cushing. "I went to Beaver this afternoon and got Theodore. In the evening we went to Kimball's Hotel (The Half-Way House) to a ball. This is in Assinippi. We had a very excellent time. There were 16 couples there from this vicinity. Cushing's Band furnished music and we could dance every time we wished. At midnight we had an excellent supper - turkey, boiled ham, all kinds of pies and cake, tea, coffee and anything else that was desired. We danced as long as we could see and then started home. The night was beautiful and the moon ran high. We got home about 7 o'clock in time to go to work."

There are many interesting incidents in the Cushing diaries which picture so vividly the social affairs as they were a hundred years ago.

March 31, 1853 "Theodore, George and I went to the darkey concert at Mr. Soper's Hall."

December 20, 1858 "Theodore and I went to Soper's Hall to see three Indians and a Squaw represent the manners and customs of the Indians in their uncivilized state. I liked it very well."

October 3, 1862 "I drove Bonnie to cattleshow in a light trotting gig. Bonnie behaved admirably and the best looking pony in the crowd. He took the first premium of $8.00 and bore

his blue ribbon triumphantly."

October 15, 1862 "I went to a husking in the evening at Gad Soper's house. We husked until half past eight and then had a party in the house until about 12".

October 19, 1862 "Father and I picked the 4 pair of coots and the one pair of loons that he brought home from Brant Rock last night. We had an excellent coot stew for supper".

November 4, 1862 "Sam House and I went to a ball at Bourne's Hall. It was our first appearance in a ball room to dance. Had a very good time."

November 21, 1861 - Thanksgiving Day "George and his folks spent the day here. We had a nice large turkey and plum pudding, a variety of fixings and pies. I think it was relished exceedingly well by all (to judge by the quantity eaten). In the evening we played whist".

These diaries also show how the life of a nine-year old boy differs today from that of Charles Cushing's time. He was up early in the morning, worked around the mill with his steers and apparently did as much work as a grown man. One entry on Sunday, November 6, 1853 is quite amusing. "Jim caught a skunk in a steel trap by his foreleg and took hold of the chain and brought the skunk right into our bedroom and left the most awful compound of villianous smell behind him that ever offended nostril" - quite a graphic description from the pen of a

nine-year old boy.

The diaries tell us that housecleaning started when mother felt that winter was over and the swallows had returned. This was a week's project and nothing except sickness interferred until the last clean rug had been put down, the last clean curtain hung in place, the last well-scrubbed shelf put in order and the last mattress put out in the sun to thoroughly air. In those days housework was done in order, days for this and days for that. Neighbors vied with each other for the honor of having the housecleaning finished first and how proud they were to see how nice and clean the whole house looked after the work was over.

After the housecleaning stunt came weekly band concerts as the highlights of the summer season. All winter and spring band members had met to practice for the outdorr concerts.

As seven o'clock neared the band-stand lamps with their silvered reflectors were lighted. The band presented a varied program; marches, waltzes, old home songs, and southern melodies. At nine o'clock the band played "Goodnight Ladies" and the familiar words rang out in the darkness from several hundred throats. "Goodnights" were said and families returned along country roads to their homes.

Children enjoyed the arrival of the ice man, who could be counted on to chip off pieces of his slippery ice direct from

his wagon for their licking pleasure. We remember the clink of his ice scales against the side of the cart, and the thudding of the cakes of ice as he thrust his ice tongs around a cake of ice just right for mother's ice box. We can see the water dripping from under the cart as the heat of the summer's day gradually ate away his cargo.

Childred like the hulled corn man who brought pickles and hulled corn, and of course, the ice cream man who rang a bell so that he progressed like the Pied Piper of Hamlin, drawing all the children to the street for the ice cream cones he dispensed for a nickel a piece.

In that day long since departed, simple pleasures at home were enjoyed. We cranked our own ice cream freezers on Sunday and licked the dasher. We played croquet or tennis on the lawn - no matter how uneven the area. We walked perhaps two miles through the woods to Maquan Pond or to Little Sandy to go swimming. We skated on every available stretch of frozen surface. Some bolder spirits even made an Odyssey of skating from one of the glacial ponds to the next, beginning with Maquan and portaging across to Big Sandy, then to Little Sandy, the cranberry bogs, Stetson Pond and the Monponsett Ponds.

The day that stood out as the most significant of the Town's activities that attracted the most people was the observance of Memorial Day. The Town Hall would be filled downstairs with the wreaths and bouquets made to decorate the soldiers'

graves. Children had picked bunches of wild lily-of-the-valley and lady-slippers. There were armfuls of lilacs and spirea, and a long procession that marched from the Town Hall after the ceremony and speech-making there to the cemetery. The allied patriotic orders were all well represented. The day was not just another holiday, but was indeed a holy day, serving as something of an Old Home Week pause in the ordinary routine.

At one time the current interest in town was spiritualism. Mothers, aunts, grandmothers used to "tip tables" to entertain evening guests. Unless one has actually seen a table tipping, it seems at worst, a hoax, and at best just a good story. Someone actually spoke to the table as though it were a person and went through the alphabet pausing slightly until the table indicated by jerking that the right letter had been reached - thus spelling out names of persons answers to questions and warnings. An earlier age would have called it witchcraft, but since we marvel at the magic box we now take largely for granted when it picks not only sounds, but pictures out of the air from miles and miles away, we must admit that there was no trickery to the "table tipping". Strong magnetic hands and intensity of thought were sufficient to make a table perform.

At school the children needed no one to tell them what and how to play. The favorite game was "Haley Over". Two teams took sides on each side of the building, and someone threw

the ball over the roof. The other side tried to catch it, and then ran en masse to the opposite side, trying to tag everyone possible. These captives belonged thenceforth, to the side that had captured them. The yard was alive with running children. Now a modern school has to have its games supervised and a great deal of equipment, or children can't play. At best, all we needed was a rubber ball, a few sticks and stones, two good legs and healthy lungs.

FARMER'S CLUB

The spirit of improvement of Hanson really began with the formation of the Farmer's Club, February 7, 1876.

For twenty years the club had an active existence, held seventeen successful fairs and had more than three hundred members.

The promoter prepared and had published in the Whitman Times articles showing the importance of agriculture and the great educational and social work that could be done by a Farmer's Club.

The special local cause for the death of this society was the formation of a very large and strong lodge of American Mechanics.

HANSON IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

The Hanson Improvement Society was suggested in 1890 by Flavel S. Thomas and organized April 23, 1891 with 56 members.

Henry L. Powers was president; Henry A. Beal, vice president; Flavel S. Thomas, Secretary; January McRoberts, Treasurer.

The one object was to advance the interests and to beautify the town. Sociables and entertainments were held at Town.Hall.

In 1892 names of streets were revised and street signs put up. Small villages received special, definite names. Some of them were Sodom, Bournetown, Fosterville, Bowker's Corner, New State, Bonney Hill, Howland Street, Willett's Hill, Cox Street. People seemed to like these neighborhood names as they were more definite than the names of the street, especially when it was a very long street.

In 1893 the society spent $150. in grading and beautifying the town hall grounds.

The next great work was the Fern Hill Cemetery arch in 1899. Much credit should be given William G. Elms for the success of this undertaking.

HANSON IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY (Cont.)

The society had seventeen years of active existence. The last meeting held was on May 5, 1908. This was the annual election of officers. After that interest began to dwindle because members could not seem to unite on some good work to do.

HANSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Hanson Chamber of Commerce was organized October 19, 1951, with the following ten persons constituting the original membership:

David Binns,
Ralph H. Binns, Jr.
David B. Clemons
Lewis N. Goodwin
Howard Johnston
Robert A. Johnston
Benjamin Koplovsky
Alvin Reid
Alfred Pillsbury
Norman MacDonald

Alvin Reid was the first president; Ralph H. Binns, Jr. the first secretary, and the first project was the weekly publication of an advertising medium called "The Hanson Courier". This was published and edited independently, but sponsored by the Chamber.

Other projects undertaken were a consumer credit bureau, a "resident greeter" program, and a holiday decoration program.

After several years this organization fell apart due to the death of some of the mbmers and the lack of time of other members to carry it on.

CATTLE SHOWS

The industries and products of Hanson were well represented at the several "cattle shows". Not only were exhibits made, but premiums awarded to many.

Annual fairs were held at Town Hall, These fairs were regular "Old Home Days". The Hanson Brass Band furnished music and horse racing was always a feature. Prizes were given not to the fastest, but to the slowest horse. The prize always went to Mr. Fuller (John Foster's wife's father) who lived in Fosterville.

SOPER'S HALL

The building known as Soper's Hall was located between the North Hanson fire station and the Hanson Public Market.

It was originally located on the property now owned by Mr. Harold Churchill at the corner of Washington and Spring Streets.

About 1850 it was bought by Jeremiah Soper, Cornelius Cobb, Jr., and Theodore Cobb, and moved to its final location and enlarged. It was the scene of many merrymakings in the days of long ago.

Around 1939 it was sold and torn down, the last of many old gathering places in Hanson.

OAKLAND HALL

Oakland Hall was built on State Street, Hanson, by Mr. Stetson of Norwell, for the New State Sewing Circle, known as "The Merry Scrabblers".

The owners of the hall consisted of sixteen stockholders, the last living stockholder having been Mr. George W. Severance of State Street. State Street is called New State. The street runs from the South Hanover line to a dead end stop leading onto Oldham Street into Pembroke and Brook Streets into Hanson.

The hall was a meeting center for the village of New State and used as a Church, a Sunday School, for dramatics and dances.

The building stood idle for a number of years and in 1935 Mr. Severance, being a deacon of the Hanson Congregational Church, presented Oakland Hall to the church.

It was dismantled and erected again at the west side of the Congregational Church, now known as Severance Chapel.

JOSSELYN'S HALL

Mr. Albert M. Josselyn, a member of the Old Colony Brass Band, bought land at the corner of Union Street and Plymouth Street, in order to furnish Bryantville with quarters for social gatherings.

He built a two-story affair, 22 feet by 36 feet floor plan with a public hall above and a supper hall below. It was dedicated by a Ball, held May 1, 1856.

From that time on Josselyn's Hall became headquarters for the Old Colony Brass Band; home of the Bryantville Institute (1865) with D. G. Thompson, principal; and the scene of many lectures, dances, dramatics, and socials.

THOMAS HALL

This building, the property of the Hanson Library Association, was erected in 1884 at a cost of about $3500 by the generosity of Mr. Elijah C. Thomas and his sister, Mrs. Rachel C. Cushing, together with the contributions of small sums from citizens and friends.

Mr. George Bonney and Mr. Benjamin W. Josselyn were the contracting builders, all under the immediate supervision of Mr. Nathaniel W. Cushing, who gave much time and labor to the project. The hall was dedicated with appropriate exercises September 8, 1885.

The upper floor, named in honor of the principal donors, was finely equipped for dramatic and other entertainments. In 1900 an annex of 16 feet was added to the stage at an expense of over $400.

On the lower floor was the banquet hall, anterooms, and a large room for the library. The elms standing in front of the hall were dug September 7, 1893 at Nathaniel Cushing's request from his farm by Samuel Cox and William G. Ellms. Fred Barker and Elmer Cox placed protection around each tree.

The nucleus of the library was commenced in 1882, in Drinkwater Division Sons of Temperance, by Miss Julia M. Poole and other interested members, by the purchase of 12 volumes.

An association was formed, called the Hanson Temperance Library Association, which continued until 1884. The word

Thomas Hall (Cont.)

"Temperance" was then dropped and the same year it was incorporated as the Hanson Library Association.

Over 1500 volumes of choice books were earned by members through fairs, entertainments, and liberal donations from its many friends. Miss Mary J. Drew was the faithful and competent librarian from the commencement.

October 11, 1884 a group of ladies formed a Sewing Circle in connection with the Library Association. Mrs. Grace Bonney was chosen president, Mrs. Viola Arnold, vice president; Mrs. Miranda Bowker, secretary; Mrs. Carrie Carr, treasurer.

The directors were appointed from each neighborhood - Mrs. Joseph White, Mrs. Sallie Cushing, Mrs. Thomas Bourne, Mrs. Elias Poole, Miss Eliza Harris, Mrs. Cornelia Cook, Mrs. Georgie Josselyn.

The ladies met twice a month from house to house and sewed patchwork, knotted comforters, made aprons and made dresses. They held fairs and put on entertainments to raise money for the Association.

November 26, 1886 they purchased a piano priced at $295. and December 17th a piano cloth costing $2.50. After two years of hard work the piano was paid for and presented on Sept. 15, 1888 to the Library Association by Mrs. Mamie Lewis requesting that they keep it insured and tuned.

Thomas Hall (Cont.)

In the early 1900's Sunday School was held on Sunday morning at Thomas Hall, and a Gospel Service in the evening. There was some very good preaching at these services.

In the spring of 1904 the Kickapoo Medicine Company gave a series of entertainments at Thomas Hall. They were marked by a pleasing and interesting variety which called out good audiences each evening.

April 1906 the Ladies of the Sons of Veterans auxiliary presented a four act drama entitled "Valley Farm". No better acting by local talent has been seen in Thomas Hall. From the rise of the curtain until it fell, interest and appreciation was shown by liberal applause. Clifton West and Ida Bisbee played the leading parts.

August 7, 1914 electric lights were installed at a cost of $201.51 and the stage curtain made fireproof.

January 16, 1917 the Association voted to place a delivery desk costing $100. in the library as a memorial to Mary J. Drew who had been the first and only librarian. Miss Jessie A. Lewis and her sister Lillian K. Lewis added a chair to match the desk with a marker for both.

Through the years the hall has been rented to many dramatic clubs. The rent of the upper hall with the use of the piano was $3.00 to out-of-towners, $2.00 to in-towners. The rent of the lower hall for suppers was $2.00. On holiday nights the

rent of the entire hall to "in" or "out-of-towners" was $10.00.

Large whist parties have been held from time to time with many present from Hanover and Whitman.

There was no cheap contract work put into this hall. The carpenters took great interest and pride in their work. They gave of their best effort.

"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die", and this community has reason to ever hold in grateful remembrance the kindness of Mr. Thomas and Mr. and Mrs. Cushing in making it possible for the Association to erect such a commodious and well-appointed building.

WAMPATUCK HALL

In 1887, five little girls, Josie Chamberlain, Ella Everson, Ella Keene, Ella Hutchinson, and Marion Spencer, of South Hanson, thinking it would be pleasant to have a society of their own, formed a sewing circle to meet Saturday afternoons. They were very soon joined by a number of their younger companions, also by some of their older friends, as honorary members, who helped by their advice, in the preparation of work. This society was called "Little Workers Sewing Circle."

After they had worked for some time and made a quantity of useful and fancy articles, they determined to hold a sale to dispose of them. This was followed by other sales, and, as their friends patronized them liberally, they soon found themselves with quite a sum of money on their hands. Up to this time the circle was working without any definite object, so now it became necessary to decide what to do with the money.

At length it was agreed to purchase books and open a library. Mrs. Charles Keene offered the use of a room in her house where all the books were kept 'til Wampatuck Hall was built. As more money was obtained, more books were added.

A few years later through the efforts of some of the members, the people in this section of the town were interested in forming a library association. A preliminary meeting was held at Richard A. Everson's with a goodly number in attendance.

Wampatuck Hall (Cont.)

Shortly after (March 1889) the first regular meeting was held at the home of Allen R. Phillips. The name of Wampatuck Library Association was given the organization, and April 17, 1889 a charter was granted the same. The following August the L.W.S.C. presented their library, then numbering 152 volumes to the association, this being the nucleus of the present library.

Meetings of the Association were held monthly and much interest was shown. Suppers and entertainments were given each month at the houses of the different members, and sometimes in the warmer season in a tent, loaned for the purpose, as there was no public meeting place to accommodate the large numbers attending.

Quite a sum of money was realized from these entertainments, and in the spring of 1891 land was purchased and work commenced on the foundation for a hall which was completed and dedicated in November 1893. The building is 33' by 50#, the f first floor containing an entrance hall, ladies' and gentlemen's dressing rooms, library, kitchen, and pantry. The second floor is given up entirely to a hall, and beneath the building is a large basement.

The public were asked to subscribe toward the building and quite a large sum was obtained, but after the building was completed there was a mortgage of $1500. and a note of $500. held by the Rockland Bank.

Wampatuck Hall (Cont.)

One of the members generously gave the furnishings for the library room, others gave furnishings to be used in different parts of the building.

In March 1896 the library containing 822 volumes and 200= documents not numbered, was given into the care of the town library, with the understanding that the books are always to be kept in this building.

Mr. Arthur C. Sampson held the office of president from the starting of the Association and Miss May Keene that of treasurer.

In 1901 they felt in a position to purchase the piano which until then had been rented. On March 6, 1906 the $500. note was burned with due celebration.

The ladies of this part of the town, realizing a need for an auxiliary, met with Miss Clara Josselyn in 1889 and organized the Wampatuck Sewing Circle. Miss Josselyn was the first president, but owing to sickness was obliged to resign before the year was over. Mrs. Abbie Phillips filled the office for several years. The object of this auxiliary was to help the Association in any way it could. They sewed, begged, and baked beans to earn money.

Weekly whist parties were held on Saturday nights at Wampatuck Hall from October through May. There were at times, as many as sixteen tabled played, and Mrs. Addie Copp of

Brockton furnished music for dancing after the card party. Harold Churchill, Lester Fisher, Merton Howard, and Clarence Pratt were regular attendants, during 1902 and 1903. Many took advantage of good sleighing in the winter months to come from Rockland, Whitman, North Hanson, and Pembroke.

The W.S.C. held bake bean suppers and socials on Thursday evenings. These were very well attended and fine entertainments were given. Frank Fisher often gave harmonica solos, Sadie Ford pleased with recitations, Carrie and Thomas Chamberlain offered voical duets, and there was always some amusing feature such as a doughnut eating contest, potato races, peanut races, or cake walks, followed by dancing until ten o'clock.

A fair number attended the annual harvest suppers of a "Biled pot-dish" with "fixins" from 5:30 to 7:30 on a Friday evening early in October. After vaudeville sketches, an auction sale of vegetables was held with Arthur C. Hampson acting as auctioneer. This always netted a good sum for the society.

March 4, 1904 "The 20th Century Minstrels" put on a minstrel show which was a decided success. The majority of the jokes were on well-known local characters, and were fresh and spicy.

The end men were Messrs. Walter Calder and Thomas Chamberlain; the bones, Arthur Howland and Frank Fisher. Mrs. Walter

Wampatuck Hall (Cont.)

Calder presided at the piano and Warren T. Howard was cornetist.

Hit songs were "Any Rags", "Good-bye Liza Jane","Tessie" and "I'd Leave My Happy Home for You".

The show was repeated at Town Hall, Halifax and at Odd Fellows Hall in Hanover.

March 28, 1906 the Hansell Musical Entertainers brough a high class style of work to Wampatuck Hall. The entertainment was entirely original. Mr. Fred Hansell, the champion whistler of the world, owned and controlled all the music used. Mr. Leslie Waterman, the Humorous and Dramatic Impersonator, was in himself worth the price of admission.

Annual dancing parties were given by the Waldamèir Club 1906 - 1908. Members of the club were Lillian Bryant, Doris King, Esther King, Agnes Monroe, Annie Chamberlain, Carrie Chamberlain, Mrs. Bertha Everson, and Mrs. Marion Sturtevant.

February 25, 1909 Hose Company No. 2 held its first annual ball. Paraphernalia of the hose company was used in effective decoration. Clarke's orchestra of five pieces furnished music. The grand march was led by Chief Engineer Horace Cushman and wife, followed by floor director Merritt Bates and Miss Helen Heath.

March 4, 1909 a costume party was held at which many pretty and unique costumes were worn. Judges were Mrs. Arthur

Howland, Mrs. Edgar Josselyn, and Mrs. John Foster. They awarded first prize - a box of chocolates - to Miss Fanny Russ who was a veritable "tatters", and the gent's prize - cigars - to Mr. Herman Ham, who wore the costume of a Jew peddlar and carried the usual stock of bandana handkerchiefs and shoe strings.

February 15, 1913 the young people of the town gave an entertainment. A Mother Goose pageant under the direction of Mrs. Walter Calder was highly enjoyed. The little people, costumed to represent some character in nursery rhymes passed in review around the hall winning great applause.

January 22, 1915 a chowder supper was served and followed by an entertainment when the Farmers Band, composed of ten young ladies, led by Mrs. Ella Conroy, made their first appearance.

The ladies wore bright colored aprons and large straw hats. The instruments comprised implements used by the farmer and music was made by blowing on combs covered with paper.

During the year 1916 the Puritan Photo-Play Circuit opened at Wampatuck Hall with movies on Monday nights. The show began at 7:30 and popular prices prevailed, (adults 15 cents, children 10 cents). Necessary alterations and improvements were made at the hall to allow for the presentation of the moving pictures. Newton L. Litchfield put on some fine films

and received a large patronage.

In 1940, after more than fifty years of active service in the community, the Wampatuck Library Association began to show signs of depletion due to the ageing and loss of members. Those few remaining desired to preserve the hall by disposing of the property through a lease of the building if a Masonic Lodge were formed.

On May 29, 1946 a dispensation was granted and on that date Wampatuck Lodge, A.F. and A.M. was instituted with Worthy Bro. Charles T. Nicoll elected to be the first Master.

GRAND ARMY HALL

The generosity of the town of Hanson toward those who went from the place to fight for the country during the rebellion is illustrated by a vote passed at a town meeting. One of the articles in the warrant was "to see if the town would give the use of the Town Hall to Post 127, G.A.R."

It was voted to give the use of the lower hall for special and monthly meetings, provided the members of the Post would furnish their own light and fuel and pay for taking care of the hall.

The cost of light would be seventy-five cents a night, and the expense of preparing the hall for occupancy, sixty-five cents, making the total cost $1.40, or ten cents less than the amount which it would cost to hire the hall.

This gift would amount to $1.80 in a year, on the part of the town, was considered at a meeting of the Post, and refused by almost a unanimous vote. Thus the seed was planted to obtain a hall of their own.

By lifting parts of records from the Woman's Relief Corps Journal - Theodore L. Bonney Corps No. 146 - we are able to see how the seed grew.

February 9, 1895: "It was discussed that we might have a hall of our own to hold our meetings and have it fixed more to our minds than this is and that Hanson might have some memorial to her soldiers as well as other towns, something that will be of

use to the living and in memory of the departed."

A committee of three from the Post and a like number from the Corps was chosen to select and procure a lot of land suitable for such a building. These being Comrades Robert Calder, Edwin Pratt and Gibson Beal with their respective wives to represent the Corps.

April 11, 1903: "After the close of the regular meeting, the two organizations held an informal meeting.

"Comrade Robert Calder called the meeting to order and after placing Comrade Turner as chairman of the meeting said that there was present a friend of his who would like to make a proposition to the meeting.

"Comrade Calder introduced Mr. John Foster who in part said he had been thinking for a long time that the four organizations had not a suitable place to hold their meetings that they could call their home and if they would accept, he would build them a hall upon his land and make them a present of the whole.

"After remarks by quite a number of those present, it was voted by a rising vote of everyone in the hall to accept his kind offer with our heartiest thanks.

"Upon the recommendation of Mr. Foster, Mr. Robert Calder, Mr. John Scates and Mr. Josiah Cook were appointed as Building

Grand Army Hall (Cont.)

Committee and Trustees."

On the payment of one dollar by Comrade Robert Calder, the deed was signed by John Foster and his wife Mary F. Foster on April 1, 1904 with Ada M. Cahoon as witness, before Nathaniel Morton as Justice of the Peace.

In the deed it so states that when Theodore L. Bonney Post and all its connected kindred organizations, shall become extinct, then the said property shall become the property of the town of Hanson, for charitable purposes.

The deed is recorded at the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 880, Page 44.

The first Trustees were Robert Calder, John Scates and Josiah Cook. It went on record that as one member died, the remaining two should appoint a third.

July 9, 1904: "It was moved by Junior Vice President Mrs. Blount that we hold our next meeting in the new hall. It was a unanimous vote that we do so." The first meeting in the new hall was August 13, 1904. At this meeting Comrade Calder presented the Corps with four pedestals toward furnishing the hall. The hall is situated on the west side of High Street on a lot of land containing 5695 sq. ft.

May 13, 1905: Mrs. Stevens and Mrs. Blount were appointed a committee to see Mr. Mann and have him drive a well, set up a

sink and have everything in good order.

May 27, 1905: It was voted to have railings placed on the stairs of the upper and lower hall.

January 9, 1909: Miss Jessie Lewis presented the Corps with a beautiful gavel in memory of Mrs. Harding who was installed as president a year ago.

March 1, 1907: A peep hole was made in the door upstairs for the password.

December 24, 1910: Mrs. John Seates gave the picture "Sherman's March to the Sea" in memory of Isabella Seates.

November 27, 1915: Comrade Surlham escorted by Comrade Beals entered and presented a large picture of General Grant.

July 12, 1919: Mrs. Mary E. Reed a member of the Relief Corps and the mother of Lt. Com. Albert C. Reed, the Columbus of the air, honored the members with a visit. She was called upon for a speech and stated that it was pleasant to renew old memories but that she saw many vacant places.

In reference to the marvelous flight of her son in the N.C. 4, she said she had been asked many times if she was not proud of him and that she had replied that it was pride, but a feeling of happiness she felt that he was able to achieve the object the government wanted to accomplish and a great relief and thankfulness when the flight was accomplished.

HANSON AMERICAN LEGION POST 226 AND LEGION HALL

On October 7, 1919 fifteen comrades signed their names to an application to the State of Massachusetts for a charter.

The first meeting was held on October 9th at the home of Benjamin W. Atwood, Main Street. A slate of temporary officers was elected as follows:

Merton Howard, Commander
Walter Veo, Vice Commander
Theodore Hall, Adjutant
Benjamin Atwood, Treasurer
Hollis Ibbitson, Historian
Esson Baker, Chaplain

At this meeting the post was given the name "Hanson Post".

The first election took place on December 1, 1919 at which time Benjamin Atwood became the first acting Commander.

Meetings were held at Town Hall, Grand Army Hall, Comrade Charles Wheeler's home, Comrade Harry Parker's home and Wampatuck Hall. There was an average attendance of sixteen at these first meetings.

Comrade Oldrieve moved that the hat be passed at each meeting, the proceeds to go toward a social fund. This was the origin of the penny collection.

From the very start the Post was extremely active. Annual fall fairs were a great success. Whist parties every Friday evening showed a substantial profit. Field days on July 4th were successful.

Money earned was turned into a Memorial Field Fund and in 1924 a Building Fund was also started.

The following item has been lifted from the Historian's records: " January 16, 1922

> Thomas Hall Library Association was about to disband and the question arose as to the disposal of the hall. It was considered as a home for the Legion. Propaganda was spread and eventually the hall was given to the town. The amusing part is that there was no town interest in taking over the hall until it was mentioned by the Legion."

Later a committee waited on the Selectmen to see if Thomas Hall could be secured as Legion Headquarters. It was found that it would have to come before a town meeting so the matter was dropped.

On August 3, 1935 the Legion purchased from the Rockland Savings Bank a roadside stand which formerly had been the Floette Tea Room at the corner of Crocker Place and Main Street $833.07.

October 16, 1935 Mr. C. E. Benson of East Bridgewater was paid $178.00 for moving the building and three stones on rollers with horses to the present location on Robinson Street opposite Legion Field.

The land was given by the Cape Cod Cranberry Company through the courtesy of Mr. Marcus Urann.

All of the inside finish work to the building was done

"for free" by Comrade Sullivan, the Legion paying for material only.

Digging and work on the cellar was done by William Kelley and Marshall Lane.

September 14, 1936 a Building Fund Loan from MacDonald Coal Company of $300.00 was received. March 20, 1939 the final payment on the Loan Note was receipted and turned over to the Treasurer by Mr. Norman MacDonald, thus giving the Legion a mortgage free home of their own.

MAYFLOWER GROVE

This was a beautiful grove on the shores of Little Sandy Pond and on the line of the Brockton and Plymouth Street Railway.

Mayflower Grove added the first bit of city amusement and theater to an otherwise rural town.

A stroll around the Grove presented many comforts and amusements. There were rustic seats, swings, bath houses, a mery-go-round, slides, a dance hall, and an open air theater.

The seating capacity of the theater was so arranged that one could see the show free, or for a nickle, obtain a good seat. If taste demands more, ten cents pays for a chair under the great expanse of canvas, erected to protect the audience from the afternoon's sun or a sudden shower. Reserved seats were 25 cents.

Actors lived in a summer hotel, especially for them.

For many this was the only theater they would ever see - for others, at least the first theater.

A spin around the lake in the launch revealed the fact that nowhere could be found a more beautiful sheet of water.

On several "special" days there were balloon ascensions just outside the entrance to the park. On one occasion the balloon was photgraphed in the air as Mr. Crosby hung by his teeth a thousand feet above Little Sandy Lake. He came down

by the aid of a parachute near Center Street on Dr. Merrill's farm, landing on the top of a pine tree and reached earth unhurt.

September 26, 1908 many went in electrics, four horse hitches, autos, carryells, and many walked to partake of the great barbecue prepared under the management of Chief H. H. Daub of the Bryantville Fire Department. Three beef creatures had been done to a turn, juicy and tender. Supper was served in Mayflower Inn, followed by an entertainment by the Wampatuck Minstrels at the theater. End men were Arthur Howland, Thomas Chamberlain, Luke Hemmenway, and George Lewis. Walter Calder was Interlocutor. Mrs. Walter Calder presided at the piano, assisted by Horace Cushman, cornetist.

The dance board was in charge of Herbert L. Shepherd and it was not until the last car left the grove that the crowd dispersed.

Admission to the Grove was free, supper tickets for all one could eat were 50 cents, theater seats were 10 and 15 cents, dancing, 5 cents a couple.

Labor Day was always the biggest day of the season, if not the most eventful. The events started with a free-for-all bicycle race from Whitman village to the grove. These races were sanctioned by the New England Association of the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States. There was always the popular baby show. A host of fine babies with their fond

relatives were present making it a difficult task for the three artists in the theatrical company to judge.

SCOTTISH CLAN ROSS

March 6, 1907 a special car stopped at Keene's Corner and a large delegation from Clan MacDonald O. S. C. marched with their piper, John Ballam, to Wampatuck Hall to assist in instituting Clan Ross, a new organization in this vicinity.

There were twnety-five charter members. The following officers were installed and presented with the emblem of his office: Chief, John Ibbitson; Past Chief, Daniel MacDonald; Tanist, Claude Young; Chaplain, John A. Cameron; Secretary, Alexander Ross MacDonald; Financial Secretary, Norman MacKenzie; Treasurer, Dugal MacDonald,; Senior Henchman, William Paul; Junior Henchman, Wilfred Cameron; Seneschal, Cyrus Monroe; Warder, George MacKenzie; Sentinel, James MacPhail; Physician, W. B. Bannerman, M. D.; Musician, Ira Ibbitson; Trustees, Daniel MacDonald, John Cameron, Wilfred Cameron.

After the initiation the doors were thrown open to the public and a large audience assembled.

The initiation ceremony was most impressive, not only from the noble sentiments of the ritual, but the novel character of the emblems, the claymore, the banners, and the fiery cross all of which mean so much to Scotsmen.

Mrs. Orlando W. Charles extended greetings to the new order and bade it welcome paying tribute to Scottish character, history and literature.

Scottish Clan Ross (Cont.)

One of the chief attractions whenever Clansmen met was a tug-of-war. Around 1908 Clan Ross pitted its strong men against other teams at the Annual Fall Fair in Halifax. As= might be expected, Hanson won the contests.

April 1, 1916 a ladies auxiliary to Clan Ross O. S. C. was organized at Wampatuck Hall with the following officers chosen:

President, Stella Ibbitson; Vice President, Mary Wood; Past President, Addie Wentzell; Chaplain, Ella Brown; Secretary, Mildred Ibbitson; Treasurer, Josie Cameron; Conductor, Grace MacPhail; Pianist, Edith MacClellan.

The ladies were installed in the presence of the members of Clan Ross by the Grand Lodge Auxiliary to the order of Scottish Clans.

HANSON GRANGE

A grange was organized at the Town Hall, Hanson, October first, 1909 with the following officers elected: Master, Flavel S. Thomas, M.D.; Overseer, A. W. Gorham; Lecturer, Martha J. Hayes; Steward, George B. Rolf; Assistant Steward, W. H. Hayes; Lady Assistant Steward, Saba Thomas; Chaplain, Mrs. Fanny Rolf; Treasurer, Duncan McIntosh; Secretary, Mrs. Maud Estes; Gatekeeper, Mrs. A. W. Gorham; Ceres, Miss Christine Hayes; Pomona, Mrs. Albert Dame; Flora, Mrs. Alice White; Executive Committee, George B. Rolf, Dr. Gorham, and Mrs. A. L. Simpson.

In the 1910 annual report of the State grange, the Hanson grange is said "to have a very efficient corps of officers and fine prospects for success".

The Grange has been the most influential organization in town for social, educational, and religious development of the people.

Treasurer Duncan McIntosh's baby boy was the first grange baby, and by vote, named and adopted as the grange baby.

June 8, 1912 a pleasing entertainment in the form of a Peddler's Parade" was presented at Town Hall. The Parade contributed a grand march and Virginia Reel after which the wares were sold to ready buyers by Capt. Charles Blount who acted as auctioneer. He wore a plug hat, red tie, carried a large red flag and bell.

Hanson Grange (Cont.)

In the spring of 1913 the Grange set out twenty maple trees on the south side of Gordon Rest Hill on Liberty Street and in 1914 they set out seven more, making a row of twenty-seven from Wampatuck Pond to Gordon Rest.

REDMANSHIP IN SOUTH HANSON AND HANSON, MASS.

PaQUOTs TRIBe NO. 74 was instituted on May 27, 1913 with the following 38 members:

Almer E. Bessett	Ernest B. Ford	Ernest W. Lane
Ernest Blume	Henry A. Gardner	Marshall Lane
Irving F. Bryant	Albert S. Gorham	Chas. Cudworth
Wallace W. Bryant	Herbert A. Gorham	Harold Cudworth
James W. Bourne	Fred E. Harley	Edward H. Moulton
Lewis A. Bunce	**Frank E. Holt	Edgar M. Pratt
James S. Chase	D. William Howland	Chas. E. Raby
I Stuart Chamberlain	Gildbert W. Hammond	**Fred W. Snow
Harold T. Clark	James S. Hudson	**Corey U. Smith
Howard M. Chandler	John Ibbitson	Harry M. Stokes
Arthur E. Donnell	Hollis H. Ibbitson	Herbert L. Shepard
Andrew F. Donnell	George E. Lewis	George A. Turner
Richard C. Everson	Benj. F. Livermore	

** Frank E. Holt transferred from Nonantum Tribe No. 73, Charlestown

**Fred W. Snow transferred from Winnepurlit Tribe No. 55, Lynn

**Corey U. Smith transferred from Quannapowitt " No. 50, Reading

Fred W. Snow was their first Sachem (Presiding Chief).

George A. Turner was their first Collector of Wampum (dues.)

Ernest Blume was their first Chief of Records (Secretary).

James W. Bourne was their first Keeper of Wampum (Treasurer).

First meeting place was at American Legion Hall, Robinson Street in Hanson.

Irving F. Bryant (charter member) was their last Chief of Records.

William J. Farley of Hanson was their last Sachem (presiding Chief).

Their Charter was turned in to the Great Council of Massachusetts in June 1946.

PONEMAH COUNCIL, DEGREE OF POCAHONTAS

Ponemah Council, No. 82 of South Hanson was instituted May 29, 1919 by Great Pocahontas, Lillian Ramey and the Great Keeper of Records, Sarah I. Annis.

Charter members were Wallace Bryant, Addie Bryant, Charles Cudworth, Edward Moulton, Davis Howland, Catherine Hager, Fred C. Harley, Nan S. Harley, Mary Raby, Ethel Foster, Carrie Howland, Lillian Howland, Louise Keene, Lucy Marshall, Madeline Howe, Alice Gerrow, Ada Swell, Corey Smith, Hannah Smith, Eunice Keene, Fannie Josselyn, Elsie Ibbitson, Addie Brown, Albert Marshall, Ella Brown, Elsie Calder, Ella Pratt, Lester Bryant, Letty Benson, Ruby Brown, Etta Sayce, Verda Lane, Hazel Brown, Arthur Brown, Mary Simmons, Harriette Raby, June Dowler, Marion Garfield, Freda Briggs, Fannie Thompson, Mabel Reid, Frank Keene, June Piddell, Mary Hoey, Fred Sanders, Ida Bisbee, Lillian Bryant, Myra Garfield, John Thompson, Hubert Gorham, Ida Ferris, Fred Snow, and Emily Keene.

The order met at Wampatuck Hall on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month and remained very active until the charter was surrendered on February 5, 1952.

Several of the members are now active members in Manamoskeagin Council No. 11 of North Abington.

HANSON'S FLAG RAISING

Hanson's Flag Raising, July 30, 1916 was an inspiring occasion made possible by ideal weather and patriotic inspiration of the people.

At exactly 3 o'clock, a parade started from Harding's Corner under the music of the Regal Band of Whitman, with Horace Cushman, leader.

A very striking feature of the long parade was the appearance of Pequot Tribe, I. O. of Red Men in full uniform headed by Prophet Charles Raby mounted on a white horse.

Clan MacDonald of Brockton joined Class Ross of the town, dressed in Tartan plaid, and gave excellent music all along the line.

Hanson Grange was represented by a very pretty float drawn by a yoke of oxen drive by Stephen Estes.

When the long line reached the hall grounds and were nicely arranged the exercises of raising the flag were in order.

Mrs. Anna Lentine, president of the T. L. Bonney W.R.C. raised the flag to the top of the 60-foot steel mast. As the line was pulled the school children sang "The Star Spangled Banner" led by Horace Cushman on the cornet.

At the conclusion of the song the spectators joined in the salute of the flag, after which Charles Thrasher led the

children in singing "The Red, White and Blue".

On a temporary stand made by the roadside the speakers of the day were gathered. Among the speakers was District Attorney Albert F. Barker. He spoke of the campaign flag that was raised over the street from the town hall 32 years ago. That identical flag was the one carried by the Woman's Relief Corps in the day's parade.

Remarks of the speakers were interspersed by selections by the band, cornet solo by Mr. Cushman and singing by the school children.

MEMORIAL FIELD

The town of Hanson received the gift of 8.23 acres of land for a Memorial Field to the veterans of all wars from Arthur G. Sampson, a citizen of the town and a former State Representative from this district.

The board of trustees after considering various fields in different parts of the town, decided to accept Mr. Sampson's offer as being the best for the town in every way.

The gift was the result of the efforts of Hanson Post 226, American Legion, who had been working for a Memorial Field for four years.

In the spring of 1925 the Legion was successful in passing an article in the town warrant for the appropriation of $1120.64 the amount of the refunded Soldier's bonus, for a Memorial Field. The Legion voted to add to this amount the sum of $1000. which they had raised on their field days, making a total of $2120.64 to be used in putting the field in suitable condition for a playground and athletic field.

The land lies just back of and to the west of the Grange Hall, easy of access and centrally located. The field was dedicated June 5, 1927 with patriotic exercises. The program began with a band concert from 1 to 2 P.M. by Brockton American Legion Band at Grand Army Hall, followed by a parade to Memorial Field led by Police Chief Ibbitson.

Memorial Field (Cont.)

Francis Clemons, chairman of the Board of Selectment, gave the address of welcome before a large gathering on the field. John Scates, past commander of T.L. Bonney Post, G.A.R., spoke of "The Veterans of '61". Roy F. Littlehale, commander of the Hanson Post, American Legion, dedicated the field, and Marion Sampson Moody, daughter of the donor, unveiled the boulder.

The entire celebration was in charge of the trustees of Memorial Field, Gary Russell, Chairman; Winfield Hammond, Ralph Harley, Charles Staples, Edmund Benson, and Francis Clemons, and a committee from the Legion composed of Roy Littlehale, Claude Gaudette, James Sullivan, Harry Parker, John Sayce, Merton Howard, and Frank Purpura.

SOUTH HANSON WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

For many years the placing of a drinking fountain at the crossing of the roads in Bryantville had been discussed, but nothing done.

The local W.C.T.U. which had a membership of thirty, at Mrs. Phoebe Damon's proposition, took the matter in charge.

At that time there was not a dollar in the treasury. Sociables and entertainments followed. Mrs. Nathaniel Morton opened her house for sales of cakes and candies. The public heartily cooperated with labor and contributions of money, and at last on November 4, 1907 a bronze drinking fountain was presented to the town of Pembroke at the cost of about $200.00.

Clifton West and Arthur Howland laid the cement foundation. The fountain was a handsome one, heavy and strong, and especially designed to admit of horses drinking without being unchecked. Two self-closing faucets provided for human-kind and two troughs invited dogs to quench their thirst.

It stood on a base 2½ ft. square and was crowned by a ground glass globe fourteen inches in diameter. On the base is inscribed "Presented by South Hanson Woman's Christian Temperance Union".

The fountain was an ornament to the village, and a much needed improvement.

A GYPSY WEDDING

The unusual event of a Gypsy wedding in Hanson caused much excitement and curiosity among the people in the north part of the town.

On July 12, 1915 the two tribes of the negotiating parties began to gather in the home of the Johnson tribe on Glenwood Avenue.

The bride, Princess Amelia Thomas Johnson, and the groom, Prince Miller Stevenson had seen each other only twice. Once when they were children and once when the paths of the two tribes crossed as they travelled on one of their summer journeys.

After forty hours of negotiating for the marriage contract, all the preliminaries were settled and the ceremony began. The Kings of the different tribes are also priests of their respective tribes.

July 18th feasts were prepared for the two tribes, consisting of 137 members and invited guests. Dancing constituted a large part of the bridal festivities and was led by King and Queen Johnson and King and Queen Stevenson. Music was furnished by an eight-piece orchestra of which Horace Cushman was the cornetist.

Grown people and children joined in the wild gypsy dancing. There was nothing about it to suggest our waltz

or two step, but many movements had a certain grace which was attractive.

The bride changed her attire a number of times during the day, appearing in a red silk, a rose silk and lace dress, but not a word was spoken between the bride and groom for seven days.

At the wedding feast, the American guests were served a dinner prepared by a cook secured especially for them.

Outside visitors were asked to leave at 5 o'clock when certain rites were performed by the two kings.

In the evening visitors were again welcomed and festivities continued. They were to have been kept up through the day on Sunday, but a license could not be obtained for the music for that day, so they were discontinued and opened again on Monday.

Tuesday was observed as a day of rest and after that the tribe of Stevenson took its departure.

Saturday evening Mr. LePoint, in behalf of the neighbors presented the bride in the parlor of her parents a beautiful bouquet of roses and pinks but no words were spoken.

The bride presented as wedding gifts to the heads of the families of the two tribes heavy silk handerchiefs of the brightest colors imaginable.

A GYPSY WEDDING (Cont.)

A second Gypsy wedding took place October 26, 1916. The betrothal service took place Wednesday, the 25th, after which the American friends in Hanson were invited to participate in the festivities which included dancing on the lawn and the serving of a banquet. The wedding ceremony took place the following day.

JOHN FOSTER COMPANY OUTING

July 25, 1915 the employees of the John Foster Company assembled at the plant in South Hanson ready for a start of the first outing of the company.

There were thirty-five in the party with Willard Howland, proprietor as leader and James Wilson of the office force, managing agent.

Everson's truck driven by Chester Sampson carridd nineteen of the party; Chester Hammond's auto had the South Hanson drum corps ("Allie" Barrows-fife; Fred Young-tenor drum; Clinton Borden-bass drum), Willard Howland's auto, four members, Eugene Calder carried four and Merritt Bates four.

The destination was Fair Haven, where a lunch awaited the party, after which Old Fort Phoenix was inspected and a lively ball game played between the Wilson and the Boyden teams.

At two o'clock an excellent shore dinner was enjoyed at the pavilion.

All along the route, going and coming, the drum corps discoursed music receiving smiles and salutes from those on the streets.

The employees were very grateful to Mr. Howland for closing all the departments of the mill, and especially that he was able to cancel his own engagements to accompany them on the outing, thus cementing the friendship which long existed between him and his workmen.

1872

Original Town Hall before additions

GENERAL PROGRAM

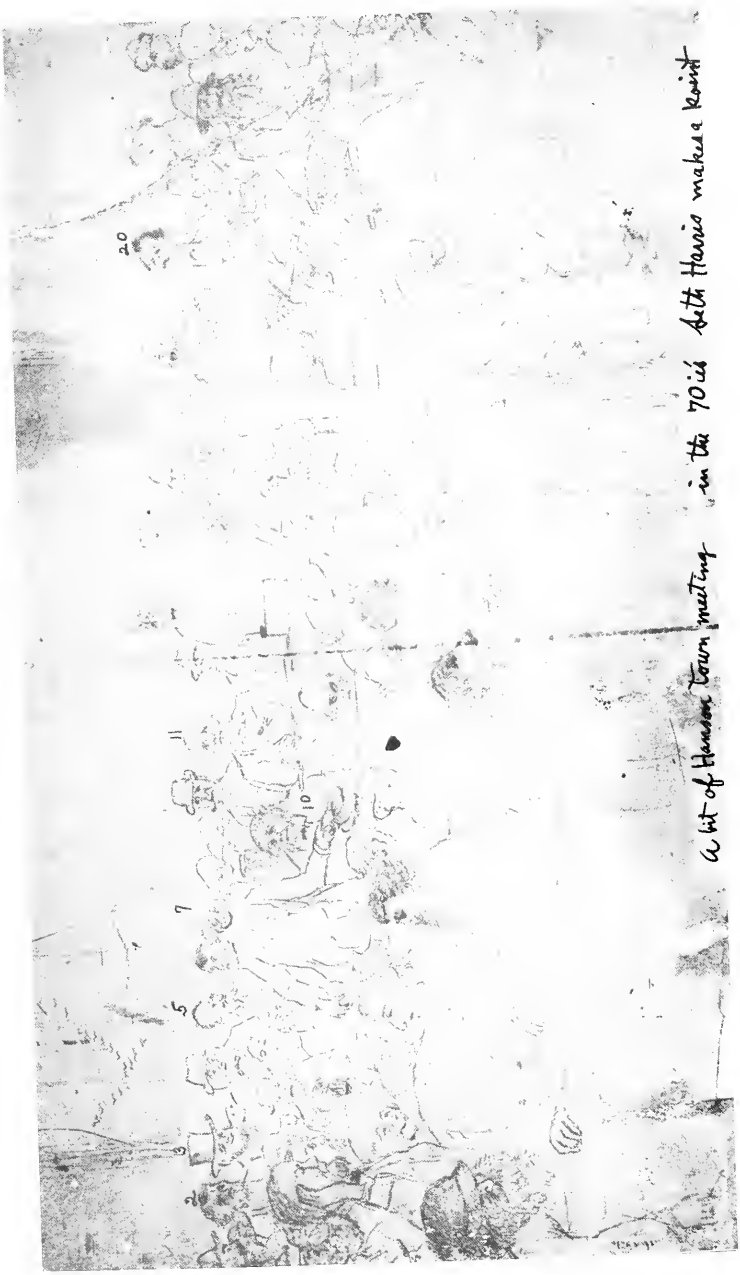
FOR

"OLD HOME WEEK"

HANSON . MASSACHUSETTS

NINETEEN HUNDRED AND TWO

(Program Leaflet)



Early Pencil Sketch by Edgar A. Josselyn 1870 - 1875

2 Bradley Bryant, 3 Joseph White, 5 Levi. Z. Thomas, 7 Seth Harris,

10 Elijah Thomas, 11 Ebenezer Bourne Keene Gurney, 20 Luther Chapman

A SALE AND FAIR

---WILL BE HELD AT---

THOMAS HALL, HANSON,

Thursday and Friday Evenings, November 16 and 17, 1899,

Under the Auspices of

THE HANSON IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.

All Persons Interested in the Arch, to be placed at the Entrance of Fern Hill Cemetery, will please Come and Patronize the TABLES, where will be the usual attractions, consisting of Fancy Articles, Aprons, Farm Produce, Peanut Grab, Guessing Cake, Candy---ALL of WHICH will be EXCHANGED for LUCRE.

Various Articles Will Be Donated To Persons Showing The Best Judgement In Guessing.

DON'T FORGET TO DIG IN THE KLONDYKE!

THURSDAY EVENING,

Our Dark Friends Will Be With Us, And They Will More Than Amuse You. Come One! Come All!

FRIDAY EVENING,

Vocal And Instrumental Music, Readings, Etc., Followed By A Laughable Farce, Entitled, "BLUNDERING BILL."

ADMISSION - - - - 10 CTS.

SEVERANCE PRINTING CO., So. Hanover, Mass.

(Early Hand Bill)

Passion Play of Ober Ammergau.

ILLUSTRATED BY

PROF. TIMOTHY DRAKE.

Over 100 Brilliant Views, with Powerful Calcium Light.

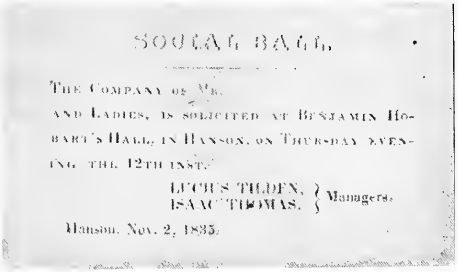
THOMAS HALL, AT HANSON

THUR. AUG. 2[illegible]

ADULTS 25 CHILDREN 15 CTS.

Professor Drake born and raised in Hanson

Early Broadside

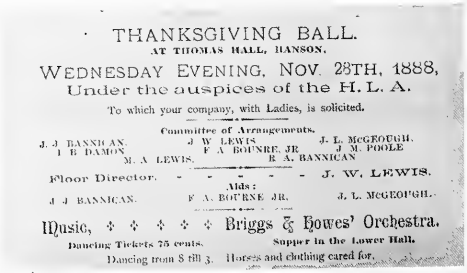


SOCIAL BALL.

THE COMPANY OF MR. AND LADIES, IS SOLICITED AT BENJAMIN HOBART'S HALL, IN HANSON, ON THURSDAY EVENING, THE 12TH INST.

LUCUS TILDEN, ISAAC THOMAS, } Managers.

Hanson, Nov. 2, 1835.



THANKSGIVING BALL.
AT THOMAS HALL, HANSON.
WEDNESDAY EVENING, NOV. 28TH, 1888,
Under the auspices of the H. L. A.
To which your company, with Ladies, is solicited.

Committee of Arrangements.
J. J. BANNICAN. J. W. LEWIS. J. L. McGEOUGH.
J. B. DAMON. F. A. BOURNE, JR. J. M. POOLE
M. A. LEWIS. R. A. BANNICAN

Floor Director. - - - - - J. W. LEWIS.

Aids:
J. J. BANNICAN. F. A. BOURNE JR. J. L. McGEOUGH.

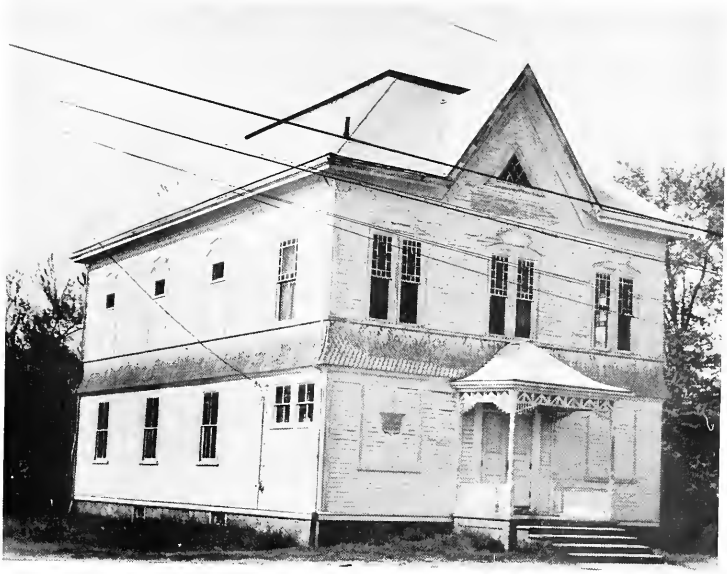
Music, ✣ ✣ ✣ ✣ ✣ Briggs & Bowes' Orchestra.

Dancing Tickets 75 cents. Supper in the Lower Hall.
Dancing from 8 till 3. Horses and clothing cared for.

Early Tickets

Thomas Hall - erected 1884

(West Washington St.)



Wampatuck Hall - dedicated Nov. 1893

(Main St.)

Grand Army Hall

Deed passed - April 1, 1904

(High St.)

Legion Hall

formerly the Floette Tea Room

corner of Crooker Place and Main St.

Purchased by Legion Aug. 3, 1935

(Robinson St.)

Grange Hall

formerly South Grammar School

(Main St.)

THE HERALD

OF THE

Hanson Improvement Society FAIR.

Nov. 30, Dec. 1, and 2, 1892.

THE SECOND

GRAND FAIR

—OF THE—

HANSON IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

—WILL BE HELD AT THE—

TOWN HALL, HANSON,

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY and FRIDAY,

NOV. 30, DEC. 1 and 2, 1892.

The object of the Fair is to raise money to be devoted to the improvement of the Town Hall and Grounds.

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY EVENINGS

there will be a good Entertainment.

FRIDAY EVENING

the Prizes will be Awarded, and then there will be a

DANCE

Five Cents a corner. Walter Calder, Floor Manager.

Supper will be Served in the Lower Hall.

Horses and Clothing will be cared for by Responsible Parties.

ADMISSION:

Adults, - - - 15c. Children, - - - 10c.

Season Tickets, 30c.

☞ The Committee reserve the right to remove all objectionable persons. Good order will be maintained.

WAKE UP!

WAKE UP!

And Don't Get Left,

—FOR—

O. H. ELLIS

IS LEADING THEM ALL IN THE

New Fall Designs

—IN—

SUITINGS.

Square Cut in Single and Double Breasted are very stylish this Fall. We have control of many new styles that no other clothing store can get. CALL AND SEE THEM.

STIFF HATS

in Great Variety. Of all the Best makes.

SOFT HATS

and CHILDREN'S HATS and CAPS. Extra assortment.

ENORMOUS STOCK OF

NEW NECKWEAR

at all Prices.

UNDERSHIRTS

—AND—

DRAWERS

IN GREAT VARIETY.

Business increasing, extra clerks hired on, and what is the reason? Just because we have tried to give full value for the dollar, and have satisfied our customers in Quality, Fit and Price.

Come and join the long list that buy their goods at

O. H. ELLIS'

CLOTHING ESTABLISHMENT,

WHITMAN, MASS.

(Organized April 23, 1891, with 56 members)

The last meeting held on May 5, 1908

The Herald - a 4-page paper of the

Hanson Improvement Society

NOTICE!

The individual who, on Monday night last, discharged the pistol balls through the outer doors of the Hanson Library Association Building, is known to the Directors, and an immediate settlement of the damages is demanded. Otherwise he will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

WM. G. ELMS,
FRED Q. BARKER,
JOHN J. BANNICAN,
SAMUEL O. COX,
CYRUS DREW,
Directors H. L. A.

Hanson, April 22, 1891.

Times Steam Job Press, Whitman.

(Early Poster)

Burrage Ball Team 1907

Burrage Field corner of Main and Pleasant Sts.

From left to right ------
Back row,
Burton Shepherd, James Lowery, Edwin Churchill (umpire) Adolphus Beal
Middle row,
Roderick Mc Clellan, Harry Tucker, Harold Clark, Merton Howard, William Dunham
Front row,
Herman Thomas, Sherman McClellan

Car in the background belongs to Marcus Urann. He is in it.

Uniforms were Maroon with white lettering.

Scottish Clan Ross instituted March 6, 1907

Chief of Clan Ross: -
John Ibbitson in kilts (extreme left)
Other members (wearing plaids)
Angus MacLellan (bareheaded at left)
James Wilson (bareheaded at right)
Joseph King (extreme right)
Archie Mc Phail (2nd from right)
Will Thayer (3rd from right)
Sitting: -
Edwin Thayer (on left)
Cyril Ibbitson (on right)

Others in kilts are Boston Bag Pipe Band Members hired to play at the Pembroke celebration.

M U S I C I A N S

THE OLD COLONY BRASS BAND

The Old Colony Brass Band, with headquarters at Bryantville, had its origin in an attempt made by Mr. J. Dean Bonney to form a brass band at Pembroke Town Hall in September 1852.

It was at first called the Mattakeesett Brass Band. Instruments were hired in Boston by Mr. Bonney and a single piece of music ("The Silver Monn" quick step) was arranged for them.

After practicing on it through the Fall and Winter, the players got discouraged in not having made enough progress, and the band fell to pieces for want of harmony.

Happening to meet Mr. E. B. K. Gurney (Ebenezier Bourne Keene Gurney) one day, Mr. Bonney asked him to help them in again organizing a brass band.

Mr. Gurney, born with a taste and a talent for music, was well fitted for the leadership. The name Old Colony Brass Band was adopted July 2, 1855. Much of the music was arranged by Mr. Gurney although the very first music was bought from the South Abington band.

Recognizing the fact that to be accepted at face value the band must enjoy the attractions due to a uniform, they bought the best blue cloth obtainable at $2.00 per yard and engaged S. B. Allen, and East Bridgewater tailor to make coats.

These were to be trimmed with white cord on the edges and gold plated buttons, At the same time they ordered buff

trouser stripes trimmed with red cord.

The next year they procured shoulder straps and caps of the regulation state militia pattern, with the initials "O.C.". In 1860 they bought belts and music boxes. In 1861 they bought overcoats.

At first the instruments were what the players happened to have or could hire and of course, detracted from the band's appearance. Martin Bryant advised them to buy new instruments of the prevailing type and when a joint note of the members for $250.00, endorsed by Mr. Bryant was accepted at the Plymouth Savings Bank, instruments were purchased of Russell and Tolman, Boston. The instruments were paid for in monthly installments by the members who received them.

The band always had the public's interest, playing at picnics and flag raisings but in 1861 they began to do more serious work. Their services were in demand for mass meetings, recruitings and trainings. They played weekly at Bourne's Hall in Hanson for lectures on patriotic subjects.

Mr. Gurney voluntarily resigned leadership March 19, 1864 after holding the position eleven years.

A silver cornet was presented Mr. Gurney in appreciation for his leadership. It was engraved "Presented to E.B.K. Gurney, Leader of the O.C. Band, by the members of the Band."

The following letter was written by Ebenezer Henry Gurney, always referred to simply as Henry Gurney, the father of the late Ella F. Howard. A note in Josephine Gurney's handwriting details the fact that Henry and three other boys, Horatio Sooter, George Hayward of Halifax and Albert Josselyn of Hanson, all ran away together to enlist in Boston for service in the Civil War. Henry's first enlistment was for three months but it was not until 1863 that he came home. He was a musician and his second enlistment in 1861 found him Chief Bugler in the First Rhode Island Cavalry. The story about Henry Gurney best remembered by the family is that he rode with Sherman on that scorching raid through Georgia. He reported that with other men, he entered a beautiful Georgia mansion where the soldiers were destroying everything in sight. There was a fine piano there and Henry refused to let them touch it; instead, he sat down and played until they left the room. In a flyleaf of a book he found the name "Semple". When his first daughter was born, he named her Amy Semple Gurney. Alan Pratt of Rockland has Henry's silver cornet, a fine looking instrument, but extremely hard to play.

This letter is amazing to us of the present day who are so used to the censorship now considered necessary in all correspondence from the front battle lines.

COPY OF LETTER WRITTEN BY EBENEZER HENRY GURNEY

Fort Monroe
Saturday 11th, May, '61

My dear Brother,

I received your letter of the 28th of April, last Thursday, so you see that it was a long time on the way. I would like to have you here this day just to see our style of living and how we work too, but I shouldn't want you or anyone else to come here and live as we do, unless it was for the preservation of our country's flag, as it is with us. I always thought I was not so hard and tough as the other boys from home, but I find, to my astonishment, that I go far beyond the endurance of the other boys. All of the other boys except Wallace (e.g. Wallace Hood, Pleasant Street) have been hauled up with something or other and I have been tough as a bear. Edwin Thayer has been in the hospital three or four days from a swelling in the neck. Willard is sick from boils. Otis (e.g. Otis Bonney, Washington Street) is not very well this day and the others have been complaining about something almost every day. All from our mode of living, which is pork and bread to eat, almost every day. I never felt better in my life than I have since I have been here, notwithstanding I never worked so hard before. I get up at quarter before five in the morning and shake my blanket; then I have to go out on company drill until breakfast, when we have pork and bread; never anything else. After breakfast we have our own time until eight o'clock when we have regimental drill for three hours. Afternoon we have our own time until four and

then drill for two hours. We have to keep awake until 9 o' clock for roll call and do not get to sleep until 10 or after on account of the boys making so much noise. There are 150 of us in one room.

This is our parade duty. On guard and fatigue days we get up as usual and shake our beds but do not have to go out on line until 8.00 a.m. Our fatigue duty is the easiest and our guard duty the hardest. They are bound to put us through every day. As I have very often explained, our victuals are just right to create humors. I don't eat anything except the bread, beans once in a week, meat once in ten days, rice once a week and what I buy from the officers' wives or from the cooks. Nothing but pork and bread for breakfast and bread and coffee for supper. This is to serve one's country.

Our place here is well fortified beside the fort. Yesterday the Pawnee, Cumberland, Harriet Lane and Monticello were all here as blockade; Pawnee, 10 guns, Cumberland, 3p., Harriet L, 6 or 8, and the Monticello, 1 large 10-inch gun besides two small ones on deck (Howitzers). Today the Pawnee went out and the Quaker City came in. The Harbor is full of sail stopped by the blockade. We don't know whether the rebels will be bold enough to attach us or not, but every place is being strengthened and guns put in order. Today they are covering the magazine with bags of sand to prevent all possible explosions. Last night was a busy night over in Hampton for

the secessionists. Drums were going all night and this morning the scouts reported a sand battery in process of erection. If they get too fast, they may be used up before they expect. That big gun weighs 49.099-11 marked on it. Will throw a shot or shell from 4 to 7 miles and costs $100.00 everytime it is fired. It is a 15-inch Columbiad and is called the Floyd gun. It is four feet and over through the "britch". I have stood on it and it was about 15 feet from the ground. I wish you to write as often as you can and tell me all the news. My love to all.

Your brother Henry."

ARCHER LESLIE HOOD

Archer Leslie Hood was born in South Hanson and is one of the line of musical descendants from John Alden and Priscilla.

His grandfather, Ebenezier Bourne Keene Gurney, conducted one of the first brass bands in America - "The Old Colony Brass Band of Plymouth".

His great-grandfather was a composer, and chorus director in the very early days. He was a fifer in the war of 1812.

Dr. Hood Studied all the varied instruments of the orchestra and band before he selected the violin as his favorite. He studied with Herman Hartman of the New England Conservatory and later with the great soloist Alfred DeSeve.

In the meantime, he developed his voice under the instruction of Clarence Hay of Boston and became second tenor in the celebrated Myron W. Whitney male quartet.

Although having given up music as a profession, Doctor Hood was induced by the International Music Festival League to appear as the Music Director of "Nitana" at the Tercentenary Celebration of the Landing of the Pilgrims.

Archer Leslie Hood (Cont.)

Nitana is the most American opera ever written, dealing with the life of the American Indians before the early settlers.

Augustus Post was the Librettist of the Grand Opera of Nitana and Umberto Vesci the Composer.

SOUTH HANSON BRASS BAND

In 1880 Hanson boasted of a brass band, called the South Hanson Brass Band, with Seth Miller Briggs as director.

The band held its practice meetings at the old shoe shop on Pleasant Street, owned by Otis Hood's father.

After one of their weekly meetings, the bandmaster told them that on the next pleasant afternoon they would assemble at their accustomed meeting place, then march to Bryantville to render a band concert on the local bandstand.

This bandstand was on the corner of Mattakeesett Street, on the curve of the road between the home of Mrs. Ida Driscoll and Dr. Breil's residence. It was built at Mrs. Elizabeth Charles' expense and donated to the community. (Mrs. Charles was the wife of the local physician, Dr. Charles.)

The only music that the entire band could march by was the hymn "Safe In The Arms of Jesus". This hymn was played all the way from Pleasant Street, Hanson, to Bryantville Square with one exception. The music stopped as the Band passed Charles Staples' home on Main Street. (Mrs. Staples was giving birth to her daughter Florence).

After playing a while at the Square, the band members took a well-earned rest. The local storekeeper, Mr. Bryant, to show his appreciation brought out crackers and pickles as sort of refreshments. After consuming their fill of crackers and especially of pickles, the players found their mouths so

puckered that they couldn't play a note. Thus ended the band concert for that day!

Band members were Charles Selon, Everett Josselyn, Al Hammond, Otis Hood, Elliott Thrasher, Dr. Samuel Howland, Frank Goff, Walter Calder, Joshua Hommond, Bert Hammond, Thomas Fuller, Elmer Josselyn, Edgar Josselyn, and Bert Josselyn.

JESSIE ALTON LADIES' BRASS BAND OF HANSON

The Jessie Alton Ladies' Brass Band was the first such musical organization in New England.

The band numbering twenty-one members, all from old Plymouth County families was organized in 1886 by Jessie Alton Lewis who became president.

Seth Frank Turner was the band's first instructor and he was succeeded by Thomas G. Fuller.

Members were nattily dressed in navy blue uniforms with gilt braid and dark blue felt hats.

After three months practice the first appearance in public was at Thomas Hall to an enthusiastic audience. From then on they received calls to many surrounding towns. Phil Barker's two-horse coach, driven by John Fitzpatrick carried the players and instruments from place to place.

The band filled a four-day engagement on the Cape giving concerts at Truro, Wellfleet, and Provincetown.

The members of the band were:

Annie Poole Atwood
Mary Ellen Barrows
Francella Bowker
Augusta Ramsdell Brady
Carrie Briggs
Leona Corbin
Mary Fuller Foster
Thomas Fuller
Georgia Josselyn
Jessie Lewis
Julia Poole
Ida Raymond
Elva Turner
Mamie Wheeler

SETH MILLER BRIGGS

Mr. Briggs, who has done much to contribute to the success of public social affairs in Hanson, was born in Pembroke. He inherited a love for the instrument which he handled so skillfully, and from which he drew such a soul-inspiring music.

At New England Conservatory of Music he studied theory and received instruction on the piano. At the same time he was taking violin lessons from a private teacher in Boston.

Through the day he worked hard studying and practicing. In order to meet the expense of his instruction, he spent his nights playing for dancing parties.

In 1861, he enlisted in Company A 3d Regiment, Massachusetts Vol. Militia, taking his violin with him. In a history of the Regiment the author said: "Miller Briggs was a Knight of the bow and he could make the 'old campaign fiddle..' talk, sing, weep, or shout, as occasion required or his fancy dictated."

For twenty years after the war he traveled far and wide. Sometimes teaching singing in schools, sometimes conducting dancing classes; at other times leading an orchestra or instructing a brass band, but always his violin was his beloved companion in all his travels.

Seth Miller Briggs (Cont.)

Since 1885 he made his Home permanently in Hanson, and for a number of winters taught a dancing school in most of the towns of old Plymouth country, where he has always been very popular.

Teaching music and playing the violin are only a small part of what Mr. Briggs could do as his business card shows:

> "S. Miller Briggs, South Hanson, Mass., Maker and repairer of violins: Clock repairer: White washing and paper hanging: Teach of music: Dancing Master: Organ and piano tuning: All kinds of woodworking: Music written and furnished for any occasion: Licensed auctioneer: Leader of Briggs' orchestra."

He was "domiciled" on Pleasant Street, South Hanson. In the dooryard of his home stood the workshop, where he could be found almost any day busily at work on a violin, setting type or doing the one hundred and one things which he knew so well how to do.

MUSIC IN HANSON

Hanson is probably as musical a town as can be found in Plymouth County. We can boast of a number of orchestras, the most prominent being Brigg's, Kilbrith's, and Porter's. Nearly all of the young people are the possessors of instruments of some kind, and many and various are the tunes they produce.

The South Hanson Male Quartette had as its members Walter Calder, Walter Monroe, Thaddeus Howard and Walter Everson. They rendered their voices in singing the old hymns that everyone loved to hear and pleased at many occasions. They were often called upon to render a few humns at the funerals of neighbors and friends, in fact, there are very few houses between the Bryantville line and Elm Street that they have not sung in at a funeral. They rehearsed at the Calder home and Mrs. Calder always accompanied them. The hymn most often requested at the funerals was "We Are Going Down the Valley One by One"; on Memorial Sunday the request was always "The Vacant Chair".

A mixed quartette called the Harmony Quartet was composed of Mary Foster, Susie Bourne, Walter Calder, and George Langill. People enjoyed hearing this group sing "To Thee, O Country" on Memorial Sunday, "Whispering Hope", and "Carry Me Back To Old Virginny" at socials and entertainments.

Through the years there have been many quartets, both male and mixed, but Walter Calder was always the tenor voice and

Mrs. Walter Calder always the accompanist.

Old programs of social affairs in town list the names of many of the different quartets.

A male quartet composed of Walter Calder, George Rolfe, Ernest Hemmenway, and George Langill rendered selections at the Congregational Church. Mrs. Walter Calder presided at the organ in her usual acceptable manner. (1910).

A mixed quartet composed of Mrs. Robert Calder, Mrs. Hubert Gorham, Stephen Hiatt, and Walter Calder with Mrs. Walter Calder at the piano brought forth much applause at an entertainment in Wampatuck Hall. The old time songs sung were "Come Where the Lillies Bloom", "A Farmer's Life For Me", "Silver Threads Among the Gold" and "In the Christian's Home in Glory". (February 16, 1911)

A mixed quartet composed of Miss Nannie Holmes, Josephine Estes, Walter Calder and Stephen Hiatt rendered the anthem and the offertory at the Congregational Church. Mrs. Calder presided at the organ. (1912)

Special music for the Easter service was rendered at the Congregational Church by a quartet composed of Misses Nannie B. Holmes, Josephine Estes, Walter Calder, and Stephen Hiatt with Mrs. Walter Calder as organist. (April 7, 1912)

Music in Hanson (Cont.)

The choir at the Baptist Church assisted by the following quartet - Mrs. Grace Bonney, Mrs. Lucy Pratt, Walter Calder, and Luke Hemenway - rendered the cantata "The Resurrection and the Life" at their Easter service. (April 13, 1914)

A quartet consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Calder, Mrs. Grace Bonney, and Stephen Hiatt sang appropriate selections at the Congregational Church, accompanied by Charles Thrasher organist. (May 1, 1916)

The "Jolly Boys' Quartet" - made up of Walter Calder, Luke Hemmenway, Ernest Hemmenway, and Ernest Carr were very popular at Thomas Hall Entertainments.

In 1902 Mrs. Grace Bonney, Mrs. Annie Gorham, Walter Calder, and Stephen Hiatt, was the quartet that made an audience feel very heartily the sentiment voiced in Mrs. Grace Bonney's first verse of the hymn written at the Town Hall Literary Exercises during our Old Home Week in 1902:

"O God we thank Thee Who did's't lead
Our sires, in early days
To choose a spot of earth so fair,
And there their hearthstones raise."

THE BRYANTVILLE KITCHEN ORCHESTRA

The Bryantville Kitchen Orchestra gave its first concert in the Fire Station on May 8, 1914 before a large and enthusiastic audience.

The unique instruments were very amusing and the pretty uniforms added to the effect. Encores were encored, especially the cornet solo "Old Kentucky Home" with variations by Nannie B. Holmes and the duet and obligato "The Glow Worm" by Mrs. Florence Everson and Miss Elsie Burgess.

The members of the orchestra are as follows:

Leader	Mrs. Marion Lewis
Violins	Mrs. Minnie White
	Mrs. Maude Crowell
Cornets	Miss Elsie Burgess
	Miss Nannie B. Holmes
Trombones	Mrs. Ella Pratt
	Mrs. Cora Beal
Snare Drum	Mrs. Celia Howe
Bass Drum	Mrs. Myrtie Armstrong
Cymbals	Mrs. Bernice Wadsworth
Double Bass	Miss Susie Sanford
	Mrs. Hannah Smith
Clarionettes	Miss Grace Graham
	Miss Ethel Graham
Bass Horns	Mrs. Florence Everson
	Mrs. Annie Gorham
Saxophone	Miss Leona Daub
Flute	Miss Sylvia Benson
Oboe	Miss Myrtle Mann
Concertina	Mrs. Mary Munroe
French Horn	Mrs. Jennie Kilbrith
Flageolet	Mrs. Annie Rickard
Piano=	Mrs. Mary Kilbrith

John Foster Lumber Company assembled for an annual outing at Fair Haven - July 25, 1915

From left to right
Front row,
Wallace Bryant, Fred Young, Charles Knott, Fred Wentzell, Arthur Sampson, James Wilson, Merritt Bates, Clinton Borden
Middle Row
Peter Hughes, Andrew Sturtevant, Albert Chamberlain, Russell Richards, Chester Hammond, Albert Josselyn, Eugene Calder, Willard Howland, Irvin Bryant, Archie Mac Phail, Allie Barrows, Chester Lane, Austin Howland
Back Row,
John Keevy, Ernest Hobill, Luther Shertleff, Ralph Weeden, Stephen Estes, David Mc Intosh, Harris Ramsdell, Edward Moulton, Alexander "Sandy" Mac Donald, Norman Mac Kenzie, John Bryant, George Soule

BAND CONCERT!

THE JESSIE ALTON LADIES' BAND,

WILL GIVE A CONCERT!

—AT—

THOMAS HALL, HANSON,

Tuesday Evening, May 7, '89.

PROGRAMME.

1. QUICKSTEP, Erminie.
2. Dream of Beauty.
   BAND.
3. SONG, Selected.
   MALE QUARTETTE.
4. READING, The Lost Heir.
   MARIA F. BEAL.
5. CORNET SOLO, Lizzie Polka.
   CARRIE MILLWARD.
6. DUET, Let me be ever near thee.
   MRS. FOSTER, MRS. JOSSELYN.
7. PIANO SOLO, Selected.
   LEONA CORBIN.
8. READING, How we fought the Fire.
   JULIA M. POOLE.
9. CORNET SOLO, Serf Polka.
   CARRIE MILLWARD.
10. SONG, Selected.
    MALE QUATETTE.
11. SERENADE, Pleasant Dreams.
12. WALTZ, Sunlight.
    BAND.

ADMISSION, - - 15 CENTS.

Concert Commences at 8 O'clock.

No Postponement on Account of Weather.

Please Preserve This Programme for Hall Use.

E. N. Foster, Printer, So. Hanson.

Jessie Alton Ladie's Brass Band - organized 1886

From left to right ---

Back row,
Elva Turner, Mary Fuller Foster, Julia Poole, Jessie Lewis, Georgia Josselyn, Thomas Fuller (instructor), Mamie Wheeler, Leona Corbin

Front row,
Carrie Briggs, Annie Poole Atwood, Mary Ellen Barrows, Idella Arnold, Ida Raymond, Augusta Ramsdell Brady, Francella Bowker

The uniforms were navy blue with gilt braid and dark blue felt hats.

A mixed Quartett of the early 90's

and their accompaniest

Standing, Left to Right:
Walter Calder, 1st tenor
Florence Everson, soprano
Walter Everson, 2nd tenor

Sitting, Left to Right:
Catherine Calder (accompaniest)
Annie Gorham, alto

Seth Miller Briggs and his campaign fiddle

He did much to contribute to the success

of the public social affairs in Hanson

in the early 90's.

South Hanson Brass Band

Organized and directed by Seth Miller Briggs

1880. In front of Hanson Town Hall

SOUTH HANSON BRASS BAND

Back Row on steps, left to right

Frank Hammond
Baritone Horn

Elmer Johnson
Cornet

Walter Calder
Cornet

Dr. Samuel Howland
Trombone

Thomas Fuller
all instruments

Oscar Johnson
Flute

Webb Dow
Cornet

Albert Josselyn
Cornet

Edgar C. Josselyn
Alto Horn

Isaac Bourne
Clarinet

Front Row on ground, left to right

Miller Briggs
Leader Alto Horn

Otis Head
Piccalo

Frank Goff
Cornet

Charles Ford
Cymbols

Everett Josselyn
Drum

Charles Selon
Snare Drum

George Albert Hammond
Cornet

Joshua Bowles Hammond
Alto Horn

Joshua Wilson Hammond
Tuba

MUSICIANS

GRAND VOCAL

CONCERT!

— AT —

Town Hall, Hanson,

— ON —

WEDNESDAY EVE'G, APRIL 24, '78

MR. C. W. MITCHELL, Musical Director.

Mrs. ANNA LORING, Mrs. SARAH JONES, Organists.

PROGRAMME OF ENTERTAINMENT.

1. ANTHEM, { Heavenly Father, Beethoven / The Lord is my Strength, T. B. Ryder
2. DUET, When the Swallows homeward fly, Franz Abt
3. GLEE, Sleepest thou still, mine own, D. F. Hodges
4. Female Quartette, (8 voices) Father hear us when we pray, N. Barker
5. ORGAN SOLO.
6. ANTHEM, I will praise Thee oh Lord, W. O. Perkins
7. SONG, Dance on forever. [The Linden waltz song,] Hamilton Aide
8. GLEE, Moonlight on the Lake, C. A. White
9. Male Quar. (8 voices) Flag without a Stain, "
10. SONG, Under the Daises,
11. SOLO & CHORUS, Is it all of life to live, "
12. ORGAN SOLO,
13. CHORUS, The Pilgrim Fathers, L. Marshall
14. DUET, Father pray with me to-night, C. A. White
15. ANTHEM, Guide me oh thou great Jehovah, W. O. Perkins
16. FINALE, Good night, W. Richardson

TICKETS OF ADMISSION, - 15 CENTS.

Reserved Seats, 25 cents.

Doors open at 7:30. : Concert to commence at 8, sharp.

(Early Handbill)

GENERAL STORES AND BUSINESSES

E. T. CLARK COMPANY

Mr. Edwin T. Clark, the operator of several general stores in this area, as a young man, went to work for E. Thrasher of Bryantville.

Mr. Thrasher owned the general store in that village, now known as Lang's store. In 1875, Mr. Clark bought the controlling interest in this business and thus launched himself in the grocery business which has been carried on by his sons and grandson.

For many years there was an oldtime grocery store near the South Hanson railroad station, known as "Drayton's". This store figured prominently in the Sturtevant murder case of the 1870's.

Mr. Clark bought this business from the Drayton family and placed his brother Warren in charge, who operated the business until the present store building was built.

In 1880 Edwin Clark purchased what was the old "Bournetown" school, originally built at the corner of South and Pleasant Streets, for $65.00. It was moved December 31, 1881 to its present location near the railroad to be used for storing hay and grain for his expanding business. This building is now used as a garage next to the present store.

In 1898 Frank Keene built what is now Clark's Market at 1071 Main Street Hanson. In 1900 this South Hanson store

E. T. CLARK COMPANY (Cont.)

was taken over by the eldest son, George Clark, of Indian Head Street, following the death of his father.

In 1904 George sold it to his younger brother, Harold T. Clark, who operated the business for 41 years.

In 1945 his son Roger E. Clark took over active management of the business and has gradually remodelled the oldtime grocery store which has been managed by three generations into a present day self-service market.

ELIJAH DAMON'S VINEGAR BUSINESS

For generations the Damon family has lived in Hanson. Elijah Damon was born in 1829. He early learned the trade of an iron moulder. About the year 1863 he removed to Cleveland, Ohio, and continued the business. His firm took government contracts and did an extensive and lucrative business. In 1871 Mr. Damon sold his interest at a large profit and returned to his native town to live the life of a retired merchant at the age of forty-two. He engaged in farming, poulty-raising, and the manufacture of cider vinegar. For the latter business he erected extensive buildings and his estate became the show place of South Hanson, situated where Archie B. Davidson now lives, overlooking the pond.

CALDER'S STORE

During the Revolutionary War, Alexander Soper, had a store and kept tavern at the junction of Bonney Hill and Main Street where Calder's first store stood.

William Herbert Keene came from East Bridgewater to the house now known as "0 High Street", at Keene's Corner (1874) and for a number of years was in the grocery business in this store in company with Joseph T. Hathaway. Then becoming interested in photography, he leased the building July 9, 1883 to Waldo Foster of Pembroke, agent for the John Foster Estate.

John Foster had a grocery store on the old building foundation just beyond the Hanson-Pembroke line (nearly opposite Melvin Shepherd, Jr.'s plumbing shop).

Walter Calder, a boy of 12, clerked in this store and did the chores around the Foster home for board, lodging and $75.00 per year. When John Foster's business failed, three trustees were appointed to settle with the creditors. The trustees offered a settlement of 30 cents on a dollar. Walter Calder's claim was $175.00 indicating that a salary of $75.00 per year was pretty hard to come by in those days.

Under the directors of the trustees, of whom Edward Y. Perry was one, the stock of this Fosterville store was moved to the building owned by William Keene in South Hanson. The store building was moved onto Main Street and made into two houses (799 and 807 Main Street).

Calder's Store (Cont.)

Edward Y. Perry approached Walter Calder with the suggestion that he take over the business. Thomas Drew of Hanover appraised the stock, establishing the valuation of $890.00 and payments of $50.00 per month were decided upon.

On December 14, 1881 Mr. Calder took possession and continued to operate a store at that location until 1921.

Business flourished and after six months of operation he paid the entire debt thus getting out of E. Y. Perry's clutches.

The store was a general two-room country store. In front, were counters on both sides, with an old iron stove on the center of a rough board floor. A long bench was drawn up near the stove where the men of the community sat for an hour or so talking politics and settling the town affairs as they smoked their pipes, chewed, and spit into the sawdust box.

There were no packaged goods in those days. Everything came in wooden boxes, crates, and barrels. Crackers, beans and peas came in barrels and had to be weighed out. Brown sugar came in small casks and "caked up" making it necessary to use a chisel to dislodge it. A bunch of bananas always hung from the ceiling. In the medicine cabinet we find Sloanes linament, Scotts Emulsion, Flaxseed, Packer's Tar Soap, small tins of Griswold Salve and Hot drops. In the candy counter were glass trays of black licorice, horehound drops, slippery elm lozengers, colts foot, peppermint drops, and must, the courting candy.

Calder's Store (Cont.)

In the back room was the vinegar and New Orleans molasses, each in a barrel with a spigot for reaching the contents. Customers brought their own quart jugs to be filled. Butter was in a tub and very apt to crumble when some exacting customer demanded a quarter of a pound. Grain bags were piled one on top of another and during the summer season sheets of sticky fly paper were spread out over the place.

During Mr. William Keene's lifetime the rent for the store was $5.00 per month, but when his son Herbert inherited the building he raised the rent to $8.00 and then to $10.00. Still later Mrs. Herbert Keene, who survived her husband raised it several more times and finally, when she asked $25.00, Walter Calder decided it was time to move.

In 1921 he moved to a newly built store of his own opposite the Arthur Sampson place on Main Street. This store was built from lumber of the Luther Holmes barn on Holmes Street.

Mr. Calder covered a weekly periodical route through New State and being of a friendly nature, made a host of friends.

Twice a week he took grocery orders in the morning, returned to the store and then delivered in the afternoon. His grocery wagon was driven by a white horse and the groceries were packed in grocery baskets. (There were no cartons in those days.)

Calder's Store (Cont.)

Eggs and other items were often exchanged for grocieries. Kerosene was 10¢ a gallon; white sugar - 10 lbs. for 25¢; bread 4¢ a load; coffee 12¢ per lb.; molasses 2 quarts for 29¢; vanilla extract 25¢ per bottle¢ best creamery tub butter 34¢ per lb.

October 14, 1903 a wind and rain storm settled the road in front of the store so that horses sank almost to their knees.

December 10, 1907 there was a burglary. Entrace was gained by prying open a back window. Thieves left by the back door. They were evidently after supplies for the winter as they took one tub of butter, a whole cheese, two bags of flour, arctics and rubber boots.

September 3, 1935 Mr. Calder made his last delivery of groceries on Pleasant Street and on August 26, 1939 his last delivery to Bonney Hill.

October 28, 1944, after 63 years of store business, he turned his key for the last time having sold to Osmond D. Alley of 370 Elm Street, Hanson.

W. W. COPELAND, GRAIN AND COAL COMPANY

The Will Copeland Grain and Coal Company was situated on West Washington Street near the railroad tracks.

A building at the south side of the tracks housed the post office, a general store, waiting room, baggage room and freight office. The Copelands lived on the second floor of the building.

A small signal flag had to be lowered so many minutes before train arrival. One day Mr. Copeland forgot about the flag until he heard the whistle of the 9:36 a.m. express. He hurried to the flag but the apparatus stalled in some way - forcing him to run upstairs to lower the signal by hand. In so doing, he reached out too far and fell across the tracks. Claus Johnson pulled him to safety, but he was laid up many weeks.

Across the tracks were the grain, hay, and coal sheds. The entire business burned October 18, 1906, a fire being set from sparks from the engine of the 6:36 train.

DAME'S WAITING ROOM

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Dame came to Hanson from Methuen, Massachusetts in January 1902. They purchased the home of Edward Taft. There were animals, (a horse, cow and hens) the care of which was a new experience to Mr. Dame and required much of his time.

Mrs. Dame was very lonely after leaving her busy life. At the corner of High and Liberty Streets stood a one-room building used as a street car waiting room. Being near her home, Mrs. Dame's thoughts turned to it as a means of occupying her time and of meeting people.

The building had little in it for sale except a few packs of cigarettes, penny candy and a few cans of food. It was owned by Andrew Reed (Mrs. Ralph Weeden's father) and Ed Ramsdell who lived across the street "tended store".

The electric lights were furnished free by the Street Railway Company for the privilege of using the building as a waiting room. As the trolley approached, the lights dimmed. An old settee stood in front of the store on which people sat as they waited for the trolley.

Mrs. Reed was willing to sell and Mrs. Dame took over. The place soon began to take on the appearance of a business as the shelves began to fill with goods.

Soon an addition as large as the original building gave more room for expansion. A newsstand developed where all Boston

papers were available, morning and night. There were at least four dailies and then magazines were added.

Jennie Dame became known as a friend to whoever sought her aid. Her sudden death in January 1912 left the store in the care of her sister, Maud Estes, as Mr. Dame's aid. The store was continued under this arrangement until April 1918.

Transportation had become so uncertain that the Estes family moved to East Bridgewater to be near Mr. Estes' work. Before leaving, the building was sold to Mr. William B. Walkey. He took possession on March 3, 1918. He enlarged the store and moved it back from where it set, close to the road. Since then, he has enlarged on several occasions as his business demanded. It is now (1960) known as Walkey's Super Market.

THE OBSERVATION TOWER IN HANSON

The observation tower for fighting forest fires is situated on Bonney Hill, nearly opposite the former residence of Cushing O. Thomas and is an object of interest to the traveling public. Many have climbed to the top for the satisfaction of the fine view spread out on all sides.

The forty-foot tower is of steel construction, with a room at the top 10 x 10 feet built of wood and glass and equipped with a telephone, a pair of powerful field glasses and a map of the surrounding country.

The following towns contributed funds for the erection of this tower: Hanson, Hanover, Marshfield, Pembroke, Duxbury, Plympton, Halifax, and Whitman.

The tower covers a radius of from fifteen to twenty miles. During September 1913 Cushing Thomas was in charge of the tower being on duty Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, these being the days when the most danger occurs.

In the spring of 1914 Mr. Thomas graded the land around the tower, laid out walks, set shade trees and gave the tower a coat of paint.

During the second World War this tower was used as an observation tower for the observation of planes. Two men from the government were stationed there in addition to the fire warden.

Calder's Store in the 90's, formerly Herbert Keene's store on site of Soper's Tavern. (Main St.)

Store of H.T.Clark, son of E.T. Clark who contracted with Frank Keene to build this building in 1898 for his grocery & general merchandising business which he moved from another location. The business has been in the Clark family ever since. (Main St.)

Henry B. Harding Store - now Hanson Town Market

(Washington St.)

(Soper's Hall at left)

Fuller and Keene Garage - now Hanson Motor Sales

(corner Liberty and Washington Sts.)

W. W. Copeland Grain and Coal Co. (West Washington St.)

Burned Oct. 1906

W. W. COPELAND & CO.

Flour, Grain, Coal, Hay and Groceries

(Early Advertisement)

*** 1887 ***

CYRUS DREW,

Dealer in

Groceries, Provisions.

FLOUR, GRAIN, Etc.

Hanson, Mass.

JANUARY.						
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MAY.						
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JUNE.						
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JULY.						
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AUGUST.						
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SEPTEMBER.						
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OCTOBER.						
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NOVEMBER.						
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DECEMBER.						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NO. 2 LINCOLN'S BUILDING, BROAD BRIDGE.

ANDREW BOWKER,

DEALER IN

Dry Goods, Ready-Made Clothing,

Furnishing Goods, Boots, Shoes & Rubbers,

Crockery, Glass and Earthern Ware,

FLOUR GRAIN & FEED.

W. I. Goods and Groceries,

Butter, Cheese, Lard, Dried Apples, &c., &c.,

Willow Street, - - Hanson, Mass.

☞ Goods delivered free of extra charge.

Why Go Elsewhere

to buy Shoes when you can obtain them here at rock bottom prices. We can save you from 25 to 50 cents on every pair of shoes, this may seem impossible but when you consider that we have no high rent or salaried clerk to pay or other heavy expenses you will understand why we can do this.

We would be pleased to have you call and look over our stock and you will see our statement is correct.

F. A. GOFF, - Burrage, Mass.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION IN HANSON

During the first years after THE FIRST PARISH of PEMBROKE MASS. became the town of Hanson, transportation was confined to horse-drawn vehicles, oxcarts, and walking - otherwise known as SHANKS MARE.

At the time a railroad was being contemplated through our area a number of routes were considered. The decision of the present route was largely due to the proximity of the Great Cedar Swamps from which ample supplies of fuel for the wood-furning engines could be obtained.

On March 16, 1844 the road was chartered and construction was started in the fall. Twelve of the sixteen original incorporators were from Plymouth, thus the name chosen for the enterprise was the "Old Colony Railroad".

The opening of the railroad was celebrated November 10, 1845 with elaborate ceremony at Plymouth. Daniel Webster and John Quincy Adams were among the speakers.

Luther Keene's son, Leonard, was fireman on the first freight train to make the run from Boston to Plymouth.

Each engine was the proud possessor of a famous historical name such as "The Mayflower", "Governor Bradford", "Miles Standish". Coaches were all painted yellow.

The Old Colony Railroad ran diagonally through the town for a distance of approximately five miles. At first there were

only two depots in Hanson.

A stop was established at a point where the railroad crossed Washington Street and this stop was called "North Hanson". The depot was located on the site of the Hanson Porcelain Enamel Company's plant.

The next stop on its route through Hanson to Plymouth was the "South Hanson Station". This depot at first was smaller than at present and served also as a post office. Later Frank Keene enlarged it by cutting it in half and adding a "middle section".

In 1880 the railroad sponsored the formation of the Monponsett Lake and Land Company and built the Monponsett Station almost at the point where the railroad crosses into Halifax.

A fourth and last station to be built was Burrage.

The Old Colony Railroad was involved between 1870 and 1890 with many consolidations and lease arrangements. In 1893 operation of the road was taken over by the New York, New Haven and Hartford System.

The railroad and its stations were an important factor in the creation of both business and social interest.

Mr. Bailey of South Hanson and Mr. Howe of Pembroke carried passengers, freight and express to South Hanson depot by horse-

drawn wagons for transportation to other parts of the country.

Mail and express were delivered from the North Hanson depot to the people living in the northern part of the town by Hezikiah Reed.

Men working in Whitman shoe shops and tack factories were transported in four-wheeled barges drawn by two or four horses according to the weather, by Philip Barker of Liberty Street, Hanson for the sum of fifteen or thirty cents a day, round trip. The starting point was what is now Walkey's Store and thence to Whitman. The horses were put up for the day at nearby Hersey's stable opposite the Regal Shoe Store on South Avenue, Whitman. At 5:30 p.m. the horses and barge would be driven to different spots in Whitman to pick up passengers for the trip back to Hanson.

About the year 1885 bicycles became very popular and were used by many people to-and-from Whitman where they worked.

BROCKTON AND PLYMOUTH STREET RAILWAY

July 17, 1900 an electric street railway system opened between Whitman and Bryantville, passing through Hanson. This was due to the efforts of Mr. Frank Bourne, Dr. Flavel Thomas, John Foster, and Walter Damon. This railway was known as the Brockton and Plymouth Street Railway.

The first trip from Whitman to Bryantville was an event which will be long remembered by the residents of Hanson. The car was in charge of Conductor Frank Goddard and Motorman Thomas Nugent. It was just 2:03 p.m. when the signal was given and the car left Winter Street, Whitman, in the direction of Plymouth. Among the passengers were the selectmen of Whitman, Hanson, and Pembroke, Michael Kenneally, George MacRoberts, John Barker, John Foster, and railroad men. No fare was exacted on this first trip.

People lined the front piazzas, flags were displayed at nearly every point, people in hay fields stopped their work to wave hats, some bowed courteously as the car came in sight, the church bells rang, trees were adorned with banners, all along the line there was cheering.

The car rolled into Bryantville at 2:35 p.m. on schedule time. Here the passengers alighted and were given a second ovation by the people of this settlement. The lawn about the residence of Walter Damon had been cleared, settees placed about and refreshments served under the direction of General

Manager Chapman.

On the return trip, Miss Blanche Foster put the laugh on the motorman by wrapping a shite sheet around a pole half way between the Bryantville corner and the Baptist Church. The motorman seeing stopped involuntarily, being used to the white poles in Plymouth, and Miss Fuller (?) and her friends were given a seat of honor near the front. They made things hum all the way to Whitman.

The cars were kept running the rest of the day and the following day began running on regular time, offering a very reasonably priced transportation.

The electric car route followed along Main Street from Mayflower Grove, High Street, Liberty Street, Washington Street Whitman Street, Perry Avenue, west on South Avenue to Winter Street, Whitman.

It was not an uncommon sight in those early days of electric cars to see three or four cars, loaded to the running boards pull into Littlefield Square, Whitman, on a Sunday evening, unload for either the Boston train or the Brockton electrics.

Just twenty-five years later - 1925 - on Sunday night, September 13, the final trip to Bryantville was made. At 10:35 p.m. with Conductor Baker at the wheel, the last electric car between Whitman and Mayflower Grove pulled out of Littlefield

Square. There were six passengers, including the same Enterprise reporter who was with the first car. Each one had to chip in at the little box at the front of the car on this final trip. There was no hilarity. At Cushing's Corner, the conductor stopped and allowed the reporter to read what Tom Drake had to say on his blackboard in front of his store. It read as follows:

Hanson - we welcomed the event and mourn the exodus
(Trolley Cars)

Thomas Drake.

At Dame's Corner, someone had wrapped a piece of crepe about one of the poles.

Automobiles had become popular and it is they who killed the electric road. Passenger traffic on the cars grew less and less each year. The expense of maintaining the line in the winter months made it impossible to carry on business and pay expenses.

The rails were not taken up at once, but there were spots where the public safety demanded either removing the iron or covering the rails with sand. Poles and power lines were taken down ending an era of pleasant transportation for Hanson.

HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGES

With the advent of the trolley line, fewer householders needed their private horse-drawn carriages, although horses were needed for grocery wagons, fish carts, the first A and P Tea Company business, the eggman, the man who sawed the wood for stove heating, after someone else had delivered it on a wood hauling wagon , and for hearses.

The first automobile hearse caused a sensation; it was generally felt that such speed in rushing to the cemetery with the departed citizen was highly improper.

In extraordinary conditions, even horses could not be used on the ice-encrusted snow, and teams of men pulled a pung with a coffin on it to the cemetery.

The doctor, too, came by carriage and during the blizzard in 1898, many men were obliged to walk to Bryantville to fetch Dr. Charles - and then lead the doctor's horse back through the snow drifts. As late as 1920, weather conditions combined to make automobile traffic impossible for a long time in the winter.

The first automobile was owned by Marcus Urann. It was an open affair with bucket seats. Mr. Urann and Wallace Mann the plumber of Bryantville, were the town's first speeders. They were said to "rev it up" to 60 miles an hour, but we doubt if their wagon really achieved that velocity.

Horse-Drawn Carriages (Cont.)

November 27, 1911, Keene and Fuller started a jitney service to surrounding ponds and Brant Rock. A trip to Brant Rock was a real journey and if one went, one planned to stay a while. We can remember with delight that first whiff of tantalizing aroma of the marsh.

On April 1, 1918 John McLaughlin bought out Keene and Fuller. He carried on the jitney business besides having an automobile agency.

THE FIRST POST OFFICE

About the time of the incorporation of the Town of Hanson in 1820, the town's first post office was located at the store of Cornelius Cobb with Captain Nathaniel Collamore as postmaster. The Captain was later succeeded by Mr. Cobb who had been his deputy. Mail was delivered four times each week and was received from both Hanover and East Bridgewater where it arrived via stage coach. Ephraim Cox was a mail carrier out of this office for fourteen years and was paid $80.00 per year for his services. During six of the fourteen years he carried the mail on horseback.

Upon the opening of the Old Colony Railroad in 1845, another post office was granted for the Town of Hanson and was located in South Hanson Railroad Station, with Barak Osborn as postmaster.

During the years that followed, other offices were established in town. The Hanson Center Post Office was in Harding's store at Washington and Spring Streets. The North Hanson Post Office was in the North Hanson Railroad Station and the Bryantville Office was in a building on the southwest corner of Main and Union Streets - actually within the town of Hanson. There was also an office in Monponsett which is now located in A. J. DeSorcie's store on Monponsett Street.

The South Hanson Office was moved from the Railroad Station to a building occupied by the Hanson Electric Company and Alice's Beauty Shop where it remained until June 1, 1939

when it was again moved to its present location - 1960.

One by one the offices with the exception of Monponsett and South Hanson have been discontinued - or, as in the case of Bryantville - moved out of Hanson.

May 1, 1940 the U. S. Post Office Department officially discontinued the name South Hanson and now lists it as the Hanson Post Office. At the same time Hanson was reclassed from a third to a second class office in recognition of the growth of our town as indicated by the increased volume of mail being handled here.

FIRST RURAL FREE DELIVERY

Some questioned the advisability of introducing the R. F. D. into this town. It was claimed that but few wanted it and that these would soon get disgusted with it.

Henry L. Powers made the first delivery in April 1903. In June he reported a gradual increase in his business.

During the month of May he handled 3945 pieces of mail, averaging 152 per day.

Delivery is a wonderful blessing for teamless people who live a mile or two from the post office.

Fred Harley took over the route before the year was out. He was always genial and accommodating. People looked forward to his coming as the bright spot in the day. As he drove away during the severe winter weather he had to endure they would wonder if he could possibly get safely home - and fear that he may not. He served faithfully - always singing and greeting his customers with a joke.

TOLLING OF THE BELLS

In the olden days the Town of Hanson paid so much each year to the Congregational Society and the Baptist Society for the tolling of the bells.

It was the custom to toll the church bells at 6:00 a.m. on the day following the death of one of the residents of the town. The bells would be tolled the number of times equal to the age of the deceased.

In those days everyone was up and about his chores at 6:00 a.m. so that it was an appropriate time to toll the bells.

HANSON'S FIRST TELEPHONE

In 1894 Mr. Joseph White of North Hanson was the first man in Hanson to install a telephone. A group of men from the Telephone Company came to his place of business, putting in the system in his home and office - also connecting telephones in the homes of his two sons, thus simplifying communications between them. People for miles around would ask Mr. White if they might talk over the telephone. It seemed incredible that a voice could be heard over a wire.

In 1920 radio began to be enjoyed by many and boylike Roland Ford and Richard Brown, who trained to be radio operators on ships, set up radio machines in their homes. That was a source of much enjoyment to all who were fortunate enough to be invited over for the big event.

THE BRYANTVILLE BEE

The Bryantville Bee buzzed a brief season among the newspapers of this hamlet. It was a four-page sheet, whose editor, publisher, printer, and in fact office force and sole correspondent, was Friend White.

The sole edition appeared October 1895 with the announcement that it "might be published at uncertain intervals".

It was a unique specimen. All the advertising was inserted without knowledge of the parties advertised and absolutely free, but notice was given "if any felt beholden they could contribute from their stock in payment - undertakers strictly barred out".

There was no written copy, the editor composed as he set the type, and his inexhaustible fund of wit and humor supplied the table of contents.

HANSON BUGLE

Hanson had a weekly paper, "The Hanson Bugle", of which Frank L. Armstrong was the editor and proprietor. It was a well-printed, newsy and creditably put up little sheet, published every Saturday.

The Bugle started as an amateur monthly publication August 1, 1895. The first copies were printed in the office of S. M. Briggs of Pleasant Street.

August 24, 1895 Mr. Armstrong decided to issue the paper as a local weekly. The first 500 copies were printed in the office of William Bradford, Bridgewater, Mass.

The editions were cordially received by the people of Hanson and Pembroke. The final retirement from the newspaper field was not due to lack of support of the public but rather to the inability of the proprietor to successfully continue to perform the duties of reporter, editor, news-agent, advertising solicitor, compositor, make-up man, press man, press-feeder, etc., as he was but sixteen years of age at the time.

Hanson Bugle (Cont.)

The decision to discontinue was determined upon about midmight, Thanksgiving Eve, 1895, as the editor was winding his weary way along the railroad tracks half way between Whitman and South Hanson with the week's edition of papers upon his back.

THE BODE

The Bode was a weekly newspaper, published every Friday in the interest of the religious, political and general welfare of the towns of Hanover and Hanson.

It gave the local news as well as other articles of general interest.

Brief notices of meetings and entertainments were inserted free.

Single copies were one cent each, subscriptions, ten cents per quarter. It was published by the Severance Printing Company, Whitman.

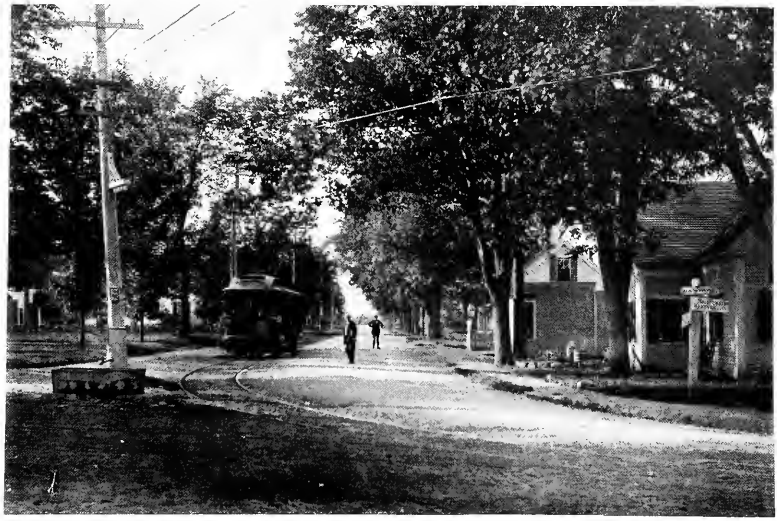
BRYANTVILLE NEWS

The Bryantville News was born February 18, 1903. It was a weekly paper, published every Wednesday by George Edward Lewis and George A. Turner.

The printing was done in their office which was over Bryant's store. Subscription rates were two cents per single copy or $1.00 per year.

This paper was really a tireless letter writer. Week after week, this printed letter was prepared for those living here and for those who have moved to some other

locality, telling of marriages, births, deaths, the coming and going of people, of business efforts and progress, accidents, crops, improvements, meetings and so on. In fact everything of importance and interest.



Harding's Corner looking North up Spring St.

Open Electric Cars at Bryantville Square

on a Sunday afternoon

Brockton Plymouth St. Railway 1900 - 1925

closed car at the old Car Barn opposite

Lamborghini's garage (Bryantville)

First R. F. D. delivery made April 1903

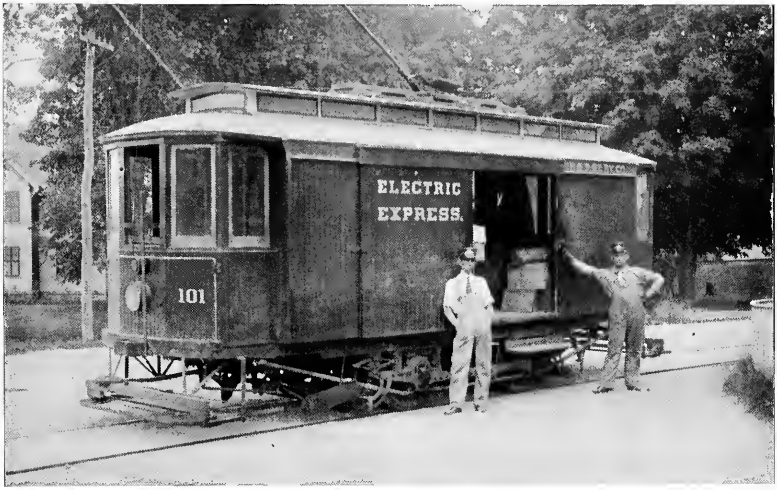
by Henry L. Powers

Fred Harley took over the route

at the end of the year

Fred Flannigan - Crossing Tender

at So. Hanson Depot (Main St.)



An express car rebuilt from an 8 bench

open car by Wells Elliott

Motorman - Curtis Finny (left)

Conductor - George Howland (right)

John Foster and his oxen

Dr. Flavel Thomas holding plow

Randall's Express in Winter. The coach line

and mail route between So. Hanson, Bryantville

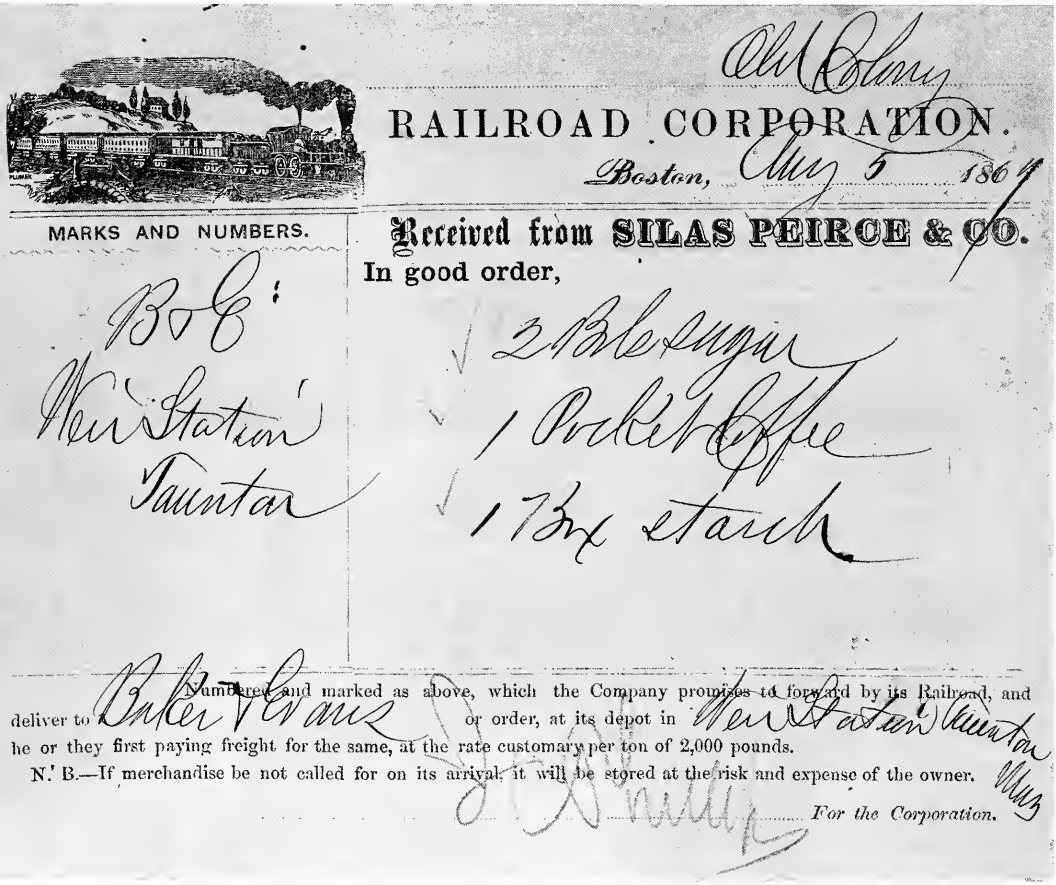
and Pembroke purchased by Edgar C. Bailey 1888

Chase's Waiting Room - Harding's Corner

(Spring St.)

Dame's Waiting Room - now Walkeys' store

(corner Liberty and County Rd.)



Old Colony

RAILROAD CORPORATION.

Boston, May 5 1867

MARKS AND NUMBERS.

Received from SILAS PEIRCE & CO.

In good order,

B & C:
New Station
Taunton

2 Bbls sugar
1 Pkge Coffee
1 Box starch

Numbered and marked as above, which the Company promises to forward by its Railroad, and deliver to Baker & Evans or order, at its depot in New Station Taunton he or they first paying freight for the same, at the rate customary per ton of 2,000 pounds.

N. B.—If merchandise be not called for on its arrival, it will be stored at the risk and expense of the owner.

May

For the Corporation.

Bill of Lading - Old Colony Railroad

The railroad began laying rails through

Hanson in 1845

Land was bought from Luther Keene

for the right of way

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS

Gordon Rest

In 1887 there appeared in the daily papers an appeal for working girls earning low wages, asking that the benevolently inclined who had homes in the country should give to these girls a few days rest in the country.

Mr. George Simpson of Hanson saw the appeal and desired to share the hospitality of his pleasant home. He learned of the good work of the New England Helping Hand Society and gave some of the members a delightful vacation.

Mrs. Henrietta McKinnon, one of the guests, was so charmed with the town and its natural beauty that she entered upon a personal plan to establish a Vacation Home, if the society gave her permission to obtain funds in their name.

Just about this time Mrs. Shellhamer received word that by the will of James Gordon she had been made trustee of a fund for a Vacation Home for working women. The sum of eight hundred dollars was placed in Mrs. McKinnon's hands, fifty dollars of which was used as a memorial room in the Helping Hand Home to be called the Gordon Memorial Room.

Rev. Mr. Gracey, a Methodist preacher, owned a summer home in Hanson, It was the ideal place for the plan proposed and the house, furniture and live stock were purchased at a cost of $2,500. The house was built by Rev. Mr. Barstow, and was a most substantial structure.

Gordon Rest

The home proved to be a financial burden and too much for the Helping Hand Society to carry on. In 1897 the Massachusetts Branch of the Kings Daughters and Sons became the owners of the property.

As soon as they took possession, the house and grounds were enlarged. The town of Hanson generously presented two acres of wood land.

In 1903 the town almshouse and twelve acres of land were purchased. The house was named "Sunny Side Cottage."

Mrs. Eliza Trask Hill was in charge of the Home from its inception and after 1897 spent the entire summer giving personal supervision. She was familiarly known as "Mother Hill" and gave much loving thought to the development of the work.

Experience has proved that it is unwise to plan to admit any who are unable to care for themselves. Many are able to pay the small price of board, who if larger board was required would be unable to take a vacation. Others are unable to pay board, and for such, provision is made by a gratuitous board fund to which churches, sabbath schools, benevolent people and the Circles of The King's Daughters and Sons contribute.

One of the contributing causes in having a home comfortable is the faithful help of those who serve. "Robbie" is a

well-known character who has general oversight of the rooms, cares for the linen and as guests depart she stands in a corner of the yard and after goodbyes have been said rings a large bell until the departing ones are out of sight.

Mr. and Mrs. James Bell labored for seven consecutive years, taking a deep interest in the work, and by their faithfulness lightened many a burden for the superintendent.

It seemed necessary in the early part of the King's Daughters' work to purchase a lot in the cemetery. The Town of Hanson kindly offered a burial place for one who passed suddenly away, but as the ownership of a lot seemed wise, two adjoining lots were bought, and payment made for them by the Misses Harding of Ware.

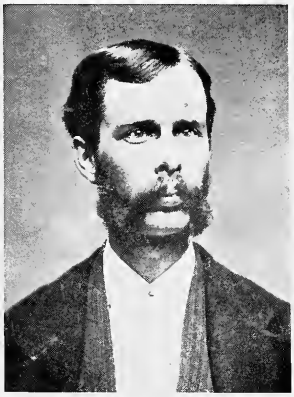
Two bodies have been placed in the lot, and anyone who has been a member of the Gordon Rest family, has the privilege of burial in this spot, provided no other place has been secured for them.

Gordon Rest

A vacation home for working women

sponsored by the Helping Hand Society 1887.

Taken over by the Mass. Branch of the Kings Daughters 1897



George Simpson

The Pioneer of the Helping Hand Vacation Home

resulting in the establishment of Gordon Rest

Eliza Trask Hill

familiarly known as

"Mother Hill"

Superintendent of the Gordon Rest Home

O L D H O U S E S

HANSON HOUSES KNOW TO HAVE BEEN BUILT
BEFORE 1800

Albert Bates	Nahum Stetson Place	King Street	1700
Alfred Vigneault	Old Maid Cushing Place	Washington St.	1704
Thomas G. Fuller	Warren Bourne	Pleasant St.	1791
Frank H. Cummings	Elijah Cushing	Washington St.	1724
Alfonzo Worthington		Liberty St.	1730
Lewis H. Raymond	Rev.Gad Hitchcock	High St.	1730
Elisha Livermore	Jedediah Beal Et Al (Gone now)	Main St.	1737
Daniel Foster	Isaac Thomas 2nd house	High St.	1840
Fred Burr	Benjamin Thomas	High St.	1747
Nathaniel Pratt	Thomas Bonney & Ezekiel Bonney	Off Winter St.	1750
Nathaniel Thomas	Corner Winter and Liberty Sts.		1760
Edward Orcutt	Richard Stollard (Gone now)	Holmes St.	1761
Herbert Hicks	Capt. Nathaniel Collamore	Washington St.	1763
Gordon Rest (Annex)	Home of Josiah Cushing	Indian Hd. St.	1763
Robert D. Rand		Pleasant St.	?
Lucius T. Fuller		Washington St.	1767
Elbridge M. Perkins	Built by Edward Thomas	Holmes St.	1770
Isaiah Bearce	Hodgkins	Main St.	1770
Bathsheba Thomas	Bill Thomas	High St.	1770
William Fealton	On Eben Page site original house gone	High Street	1773
Sally Cushing	Nathaniel Cushing	Washington St.	1785

Hanson Houses Known to Have Been Built Before 1800

Amy Bourne	Ezekiel Bonney	High Street	1789
William Ridley	Jerome Perry	Liberty St.	17 ?
Marcus Urann	Luther Keene	Main St.	1790
William Jacobson	Isaac Hobart-Barn	Main St.	1790
Isaac Hobart House	Site of Petrino Sand Pit	Main St.	1790
Carrie D. Ball	Macomber	Winter Street	1792
J.B. Eldridge East Bridgewater	Cephas Porter	Cedar Street	1792
George Damon Leach	Elijah Damon	Main Street	1794
Algernon Josselyn		State Street	1794
E. Y. Perry Est.	It is thought that this house was built long before 1800 as it is very old. E.Y. Perry was born in this house October 4, 1812	Brook Street	?
John Foster Co.	Daniel Crocker	Crocker Rd.	1795
Edwin W. Pratt		Elm Street	1800

NAHUM KEENE HOUSE

The Nahum Keene house across the street from the Orrin Keene house was built on the site of an older house called the Christopher Phillip's place. A family of Bisbee's once occupied it and probably others before them. There is no record of when or by whom it was built but was a very old house and must have been built sometime during the late 1600's or early 1700's.

It had old-time iron latches inside and wooden ones for the outside doors opened by a string that passed through a hole over the latch and hung outside the door. To lock the door at night the string was drawn in.

Nahum's father, Ebenezer B. Keene, bought the place, lived in it a while and then sold it to his son who lived in it a few years. When the place began to get beyond repair, he tore it down. (1853)

That same year the porch part was built and in 1860 the large part of the house still standing - 1960 - and occupied by Mr. Lloyd Nice.

ORREN KEENE HOUSE

Orren Keene bought the so-called Rev. John Gibson house on the Bridgewater Road, of William Keene his brother, and went there to live after his marriage, residing there until his death in 1895.

The house and land was sold to Walter A. Keene who tore it down in 1896. It was an old house with the wooden latches of long ago, with string drawn through them to raise them up. When the latch string was out guests were supposed to be welcome. When the latch string was in, no guest could enter, no matter how much he might desire to, unless the owner chose to permit him.

Old fashioned hand-hammered nails were used to fasten the boards in place. No laths were used as there were none to be had in those days. Half inch boards were split in several places and spread apart, nailed to form an opening for the mortar to clinch on the inside. The house had roof boards that were laid up and down instead of crosswise and they were very wide pine boards.

A smaller house was built for Walker just in back of the site of the old house. This would indicate that the Gibson house was about half way between Walter Keene's and Frank Keene's home - perhaps where Chief MacKenzie's house now stands - 1960.

THE NAHUM STETSON HOUSE

The Nahum Stetson house on King Street was once owned by Jeremiah Stetson, grandfather of George F. Stetson. It is not definitely known as to who built it or what year it was built. In front of the house are two tall sycamore or buttonwood trees - there were originally three - set out by Jeremiah Stetson on the day of the battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775. While Mr. Stetson was at work on the trees the noise of the cannonading at Charlestown could be plainly heard.

From this point on King Street, it is only a short distance to Washington Street where turning to the right, is seen a house owned by Charles S. Josselyn.

This house was built by Alexander Soper, son of the first Alexander and ancestor of all who bear the name of Soper in Hanson.

Eleazer Josselyn bought the house, lived in it and was the father of 21 children. As this was apparently not a very large family in his estimation, he adopted one child. His daughter, Bertha, maried William Estes and lived a short distance "up the street".

Mr. Estes was a blacksmith and was called "Uncle Bill Estes" by nearly everyone because he was a genial person and an inimitable story-teller. Many now living remember Mr. Estes and his good wife "Aunt Thia".

THE VIGNEAULT HOUSE

The land on which this house stands was purchased by Theodosius Moore in 1704 from the Indian Chieftan Jeremiah Momontang and Abigail, his wife. The property was formerly that of Abigail's deceased brother, Josiah Wampatuck.

Mr. Moore died in this house in 1737 and his son, Thomas, was born there.

Thomas was identified in many substantial ways with the new parish meeting house. He was a large land owner and a man of means for those days.

The first pew sold at auction was struck off to him as the highest bidder.

This house is now (1960) occupied by E. L. Long, Jr. West Washington Street.

GAD HITCHCOCK HOUSE

The choice of a pastor for the West Parish was undertaken with deliberation and with great care and thought. It was also made a subject of much prayer.

After hearing two ministerial candidates the following entry is made under date of September 7, 1747: "Voted to hold a day of fasting and prayer before we hear any man upon probation" ... following which a committee was appointed to extend a call to Rev. Gad Hitchcock to settle in the work of the ministry.

The dwelling in which the Reverend Hitchcock lived was built on land formerly of Isaac Thomas, son of Nathaniel Thomas who was the secretary of the proprietors of the Major's Purchase and received 250 acres of land for his services. In 1694 and 1695 he added by purchase from the Indians 250 acres more. This land was situated in what is now the center of Hanson.

Isaac Thomas married Ann Thompson in 1711 and built a log house on the hill overlooking the mill which was called by his descendants, the "Block House". The cellar of this house is still to be seen and there are two or three old apple trees about the place, a remnant of the orchard once prized by Isaac Thomas and his children's children, for the house was occupied by members of the Thomas family to the third generation. At the time of Isaac's death in 1731 he owned 1200 acres of land, of which 1100 composed the home farm.

Gad Hitchcock House (Cont.)

Deed of Isaac Thomas to Daniel Hayford dated June 22, 1722 leads us to believe that there was a dwelling on the land that was sold as this states "to use, occupy and enjoy with free ingress, egress and regress from me and my heirs to him, his heirs and assigns forever".

So it may be assumed that the dwelling that the Reverend Gad Hitchcock was to purchase in 1749 was built around 1722, or possibly earlier.

During the time that Dr. Hitchcock continued as pastor he lived in the dwelling now occupied by the William B. Walkey family - this being sold to him for twelve hundred pounds, with considerable amount of land by Daniel Hayford, deed dated December 13, 1749; acknowledged by Daniel Hayford and Deliverance, his wife, on March 30, 1750 and received at the Plymouth Registry of Deeds on August 3, 1752.

The house apparently has undergone little change since that time. The dwelling is a large colonial structure of twelve rooms. The porch or ell then extended out on the north side of the house instead of the west side as it is at present, and apparently there was a door from this ell to the back-yard as when the Walkeys purchased the house there was a well and well-sweep near the house on the northerly side and legend has it that this old well was known as the "Wayfarer's Well" - where many stopped when traveling the dusty roads, for a cool drink of water.

Gad Hitchcock House (Cont.)

The east portion of the house appears to be the oldest and probably the east room has never been changed since Pastor Hitchcock's day. It has the center beam across the ceiling, seats in the windows, a corner cupboard and many other examples of colonial finish.

There are six fireplaces - five of them open and in use - the old kitchen on the north side, used by the Walkeys now as a bedroom, has a huge dutch oven and another over beneath it - it is 52" wide and 38" high.

It is of interest to note that during the 200th anniversary of the founding of the present First Congregational Church in Hanson, the Walkey house was opened for a Tea in connection with the festivities. One of the interested guests was Miss Catherine Phillips of Hanover who asked at that time if she could feel of the inside of the cupboard that is in the east room. She ran her fingers on the inside and told Mrs. Walkey that she felt the same groove that she remembered of feeling when she was a child and visited at the home of her great grandmother Tilden (Gad Hitchcock's son married Catherine Tilden). The children at that time were allowed to look at twelve huge dinner plates that were called the "Elephant Plates" and which had been brought from China for the Tildens - always admiring them from a safe distance.

Mrs. Walkey tells of a room in the house when they purchased it known as the "thunder room" - a small windowless romm about

7' x 8' located right in the center of the dwelling on the first floor. There was also a closet at the head of the front stairs known as the "skeleton closet" where Dr. Gad Hitchcock, son of Pastor Hitchcock, displayed his skeletons after his father had retired from the ministry and he (Dr. Hitchcock) returned to his childhood home to practice medicine.

The Hitchcock house became known in later years as the Tilden place, Mr. Tilden having married Dr. Hitchcock's daughter Catherine. They moved from Hanson to Yarmouth, Mass. but later in life returned to the home of his wife's father where he died in 1832.

On September 9, 1754 it was voted that the school should be kept in two places in said precinct; viz: one place near the County Road between Mr. Hitchcock's and the other near Faxon's fence, between him and Bisbee. Then the vote was called whether they would build one school house or more, and it passed in the negative, and then voted that the school house should be built by subscription and desolved said meeting.

The one built at the first named place (near the Hitchcock house) was used more than forty years as records dated 1795 show that Dr. Hitchcock bought the old school house. The Walkeys are of the opinion that this school house is the building that was moved along side of their barn when they purchased the property, and that it had been used for the storing of farm tools and implements by the Hitchcock family after its purchase,

and there is also evidence that later it was used for the manufacture of shoes. It is still standing and is now in use.

THE ELIJAH CUSHING HOUSE

The house is situated at the corner of Liberty and Washington Streets just across from the Hanson Garage.

To go back a few years before the time when Elijah Cushing built his house, the area which is now Hanson was in 1650 still a virgin forest. Huge oaks and beeches columned the hillsides; deer and wolves and wild turkeys roamed among them; and the woodland streams ran unobstructed except by such dams as the beaver had constructed. It was all a part of the Old Colony with the white man's authority centered at Plymouth. But he recognized the red chiefs as owners of all unpurchased soil. Bridgewater was pressing in from the west, Scituate on the north, while on the northwest, Abington would soon be an incorporated neighbor.

It was to this wilderness area in 1724 that Elijah Cushing came and built the beautiful colonial mansion which stands today at the corners in Hanson. He acquired several hundred acres of land and working with the material taken from this land - the great oaks for the timbers, the virgin pine for the beautiful paneling - he completed his very imposing home of thirteen rooms. Because of the fact that between the inside and outside finish, there is a solid brick wall on both ends of the house, it stands as true today as it was when erected. Due to the various changes in parish and town lines back in the early days, the Cushing House has the peculiar distinction of having stood in four different towns since it was first built. When the

house was erected, the land on which it stood belonged to the town of Abington. Then in 1727 the land became part of the town of Hanover. In 1754 it became the West Parish of Pembroke, remaining as such until its incorporation as the town of Hanson in 1820.

In addition to the ingenious brick ends of the house, there are many other features in it which point to the very clever methods which the old-time builders employed. We think of insulation and such things as being modern building arts. Yet in this very old house built away back in the eighteenth century, there is one room which runs almost the width of the house. It was called the center or keeping room. Here the whole family used to congregate because it was warmer in winter and cooler in summer. There are two sets of beams with an air space of three feet between them in this particular room and so the ceiling is much lower than those of the other rooms, making it more comfortable throughout the year. Also in this same room is a small niche built into the bricks of the fireplace to keep the tinder box warm. The room also had a cupboard with shutters like the blinds of a house. It had very close-set shelves, just room enough to hold the huge pans of milk for skimming the cream later on.

The fireplace and chimney in the kitchen is a masterpiece of a master builder. It fills all but a small space on one end

of the great low room. On one side is a huge copper cauldron, cunningly set in bricks, in which the clothes were boiled. The oven on the opposite side was capacious enough to hold all at once the turkey and goose, the pumpkin, mince, apple and cranberry pies which we read about in Charles Cushing's diary written when he was nine. He says under the date of Thanksgiving Day, 1853, "Today is Thanksgiving Day. Had the goose, a plum pudding and a mince pie for dinner and I eat so much that my belly was as hard as a stone."

On the second floor is one of the most perfect panelled rooms which I believe it is possible to find in a country locality. It has beautiful Corinthian pilasters on either side of the fireplace and arched doors which subtly suggest that the man who, long ago, fashioned this room, felt strongly the appeal of Ecclesiastical architecture and who has left behind him a record as fine as Sir Christopher Wren himself, although his name will never be known. A rather strnge coincidence about some of the carving in this room is that in the old Stetson house on the North River in Norwell, the very same designs may be seen, suggesting that perhaps the same craftsman traveled from house to house putting the finishing touches on the beautiful woodwork.

Mr. Cushing's house when completed became the social center for miles around and he himself became very prominent in Hanover town affairs. He was the first representative to the General

Court and was selectman for many years. With slaves to do his bidding, he entertained lavishly with gay house parties and joyful occasions of all sorts. It was to this house that three young men from Hingham came to woo Mr. Cushing's three daughters. One of these young men, General Benjamin Lincoln, who in the war of the Revolution, received the sword of General Cornwallis when he surrendered at Yorktown, married Mary Cushing in the room which all down through the years has been known as the Lincoln room.

When Mr. Cushing died in 1762, the house descended to his son, Captain Elijah, a title won when he raised a company of men from the West Parish to march to Marshfield on the alarm of April, 1775. In the company were his two sons, Nathaniel and Elijah, and the list included probably all the able-bodied male residents of the parish.

This Captain Elijah married twice and when his second wife walked up the broad aisle of the West Parish meeting house on a Sunday wearing her trailing robes of black silk or satin, the train was borne by a colored slave.

One of the slaves in the family was named Lily and one of the Cushing boys grown to manhood said that he thought as much of his old black mammy, Lily, as he did of his own mother. When the slaves were freed in Massachusetts, Lily was told that she could go or stay. She elected to remain and thereafter was

kindly cared for, provided with a seat in the chimney corner in the big kitchen by the open fire, and a horse to take her to meeting on Sunday.

It was the son of this Elijah Cushing, another Elijah by name, who had a foundry in the neighborhood and was in business with a Joshua Barker.

All down through the years from one generation to the next, the Cushings prospered and were successful in whatever venture they attempted - farming, foundry working and lumber and box mills. All the land in the vicinity of the great house was under cultivation; they were the owners of mills both on Cushing's Pond near the South Hanover line and Cushing's Pond in the north end of the town.

The last Elijah to own the old homestead was born in 1805. He was the father of George, Charles and Theodore. It is this Charles who kept such a complete diary and from which entries have been taken.

Toward the latter part of the 1800's, the Cushing fortunes began to dwindle. The mills were torn down or burned, the lands were sold and the old house fell into a state of disrepair. The last Elijah was dead and his son, George, was living in the house with his wife and son, Walter. Finally there was nothing left but the house itself and the lot of land upon which it stood.

Finally upon the death of George, the house was sold outside the family for the first time in almost two hundred years. Mrs. Frank Cummings of Whitman purchased it and went at the task of restoring it. She did a remarkable job on the place and ran a most successful antique business for a number of years. The house was very well depicted in House Beautiful magazine for June, 1919, with some very fine photographs of both the interior and the exterior.

Since Mrs. Cummings' death the house has had several owners who have used it as an eating establishment. It stands today practically the same as it was when it was built in 1724, facing the road as one approaches it, and guarded by tall elms, simple and serene, bearing its two and a quarter centuries with calm dignity.

THE LIVERMORE HOUSE

The Livermore house was built in 1737 by Job Bonney, long before a road was even thought of. Only an Indian path led by it through the woods. (The old Bridgewater Road.)

Mr. Bonney was three years building the house. Inside was fine panel work all done by hand.

Jedediah Beal, a shingle weaver, lived here. He went into the cedar swamp, stayed there, cut cedar and made shingles by hand.

After standing 192 years this house was sold (1929), taken down carefully - the frame numbered piece by piece, and moved to Chatham, Massachusetts.

THE EZRA PHILLIPS' PLACE

The Richard Everson house is on the site of the Ezra Phillips place.

In 1760 Blaney Phillips, his wife and four-year old daughter came from Duxbury on horse back to live in their new home.

In 1856 Mr. Phillips was killed by lightning while fetching his horse from the pasture in a heavy thunder storm.

Little Betty never married and lived more than ninety years on this same spot. It is for her that Phillips Street is named.

THE HOBART HOUSES

The Isaac Hobart House stood where Benson's sand pit now is. The house was torn down but it is mentioned in Benjamin Hobart's History of Abington that the lumber of which this house was built was intended for a church and was before the days of the old West Meeting House. This locality was considered to be about half the distance between the Bridgewater church where many in this section used to attend divine service, and the church in Center Pembroke.

The barn, built in 1790, was across the street, and is still standing at Crystal Spring, Main Street owned by Mr. & Mrs. Allen Anderson. It was re-shingled in 1909 and although 100 years old, was in excellent condition. The frame is of oak, as solid as the day it was built. The boards are of pine. The nails used were hand made and in excellent condition. The boards are laid up and down instead of the prevailing custom.

Isaac Hobart built the first tunnel in this country in 1745. It was fifteen rods long with deep cuts at the entrance and outlet. Some points were twnety feet deep from the ground. It was walled on the sides and covered over at the top with large flat stones. The width at the bottom was five feet, at the top four feet. The height was from five to six feet. A canal one mile long conveying water to this tunnel was dug and by means of it two streams united in South Abington to enlarge the mill privileges.

As an inducement the inhabitants agreed to allow him to take three quarts of corn as toll for grinding a bushel instead of two as provided by law.

Besides the union of two streams, important results were extensive works for making tacks, brads, shoe nails and many other useful articles.

It was a great undertaking and for a farmer with limited means, shows great energy and perseverance.

Isaac Hobart and his brother Thomas came from Abington. Thomas lived just across the rive only a short walk from Isaac's. His house was situated on the old road. This road used to start just opposite Beauregard's log mill, run along the top of the hill, cross the river and come out at the corner of the Bridgewater road.

A sunken place in the ground - near the old bridge, before the road was straightened - can still be seen where the cellar once was located.

Thomas was a man of much enterprise and activity in business. Besides his interest in business ventures in Hanson and Halifax, he also kept a store in a building near his home. His old account books give abundant evidence that he kept New England rum for sale as all other store keepers did in those days. The traffic flourished, but there seemed to be little drunkeness.

Major Thomas Hobart was prominent in town affairs and it was through his efforts as a member of the General Court in Pembroke that a new township was formed from the West Parish and named Hanson.

LUTHER KEENE HOUSE

The Luther Keene house was built in 1790 by Lot Phillips and is at present (1960) the residence of Mr. Marcus Urann.

Once when Mr. Keene was approached with a request that he sell some of his land, he asked why it was wanted. The reply was that a railroad was being contemplated and some of his land would be needed for the right of way. He then asked why they wanted to build a railroad. "So that large quantities of produce and timber can be hauled" was the reply. "I have a big cart and a good yoke of oxen", he said, "and I can do all the hawling around here that needs to be done."

In 1846 when the Old Colony Railroad Company was laying rails through Hanson to Plymouth, Mr. Keene drew stones and sold many cords of wood to the company as wood was burned by the engines to make steam.

Mr. Keene and Sylvanus Everson built the fence from Halifax to South Abington (now Whitman) a distance of seven miles.

THE OLD COBB HOME (1803)

This house was built for Cornelius Cobb, the only "store keeper" in this section for many years.

His first venture was in the building in which Walter Chase once lived. Later he erected a store near his home. This store was later converted into a dwelling and occupied by John Scates.

When Mr. Cobb went to Boston to purchase goods, it is said that he and his son, Theodore, walked to Hingham and boarded the boat for Boston, went to the city and returned the same way.

When the goods were to be brought to Hanson, John Willett would drive an ox team over the road to Boston and return with the purchases. These always included a hogshead of molasses, a barrel of New England rum, a large box of brown sugar and other West India goods.

BARAK OSBORNE PLACE - 1816

George Osborne was a blacksmith who worked in Cohasset. There he met Polly Briggs, married her, came to Hanson and made his home here.

George and his seven sons served their country in the war of the Revolution thus obtaining a remarkable war record.

The son, Barak, built his home on Elm Street in 1816. It is still standing and known to us as the John Ibbitson house.

Upon the opening of the Old Colony Railroad in 1845, a second post office was granted for the town of Hanson. This Post Office was located in the South Hanson Railroad Station with Barak Osborne as postmaster.

EBENEZER B. KEENE HOUSE

The Ebenezer B. Keene house was built in 1821. An older house stood on this site, a little to the west, where Walter Calder used to have his first store. This is where Alexander Soper once lived and was known as the "Soper place".

During the last of Mr. Soper's life he feared that he might lose his money add hid it in the stone walls of his farm. Those who owned the farm after him have often plowed up coins in the opposite field where the house of the late John Foster now stands.

The late Herbert Keene, photographer, once lived in the present house.

Concealed in a secret closet in this old South Hanson home was found a black congress boot with a patch on the right sole near the big toe and stained with black clay which, when fitted into the footprints left by the fleeing killer, clinched the murder case against William Sturtevant (February 1874) in the "Halifax Murder Case".

He murdered his two great uncles; Simeon in bed, Thomas in a back shed, and their housekeeper, Mary Buckley, as she fled on a mercy errand.

Captain Kid, the red and green parrot in a brass cage, saw Thomas' murder and screamed "Help".

Trial opened June 22, 1874, and lasted five days. Sturtevant was hanged May 2, 1875 in Plymouth.

This house is now (1960) occupied by Alice's Beauty Shop, zero High Street.

JOSEPH HOLMES HOUSE: WILLOW STREET

For years this house was the home of Deacon Thomas Smith. Captain Joseph Torrey deeded this property to Deacon Smith in 1829.

Just when it was built is not known, but Mrs. Barzillai Fuller, mother of Lucius Fuller, told the Holmes family that after the frame of the house was raised, there came a terrific gale and blew it down.

According to Benjamin Hobart's "History of Abington" there were two hurricanes within a few years of each other, one came in 1804 and one in 1815, so perhaps the house was built sometime between those dates.

The house is empty now (1960) but owned by George Mullen West Washington Street.

HEMAN THOMAS PLACE

The Heman Thomas place was a typical old New England farm house built in 1837-8.

Mr. Thomas had an adopted daughter who inherited the property at his death, but the will stipulated that the house was never to be torn down.

George Beal married the Thomas daughter and looked after the property for her, renting it to Deborah Evans. Later it was given to his daughter May, who married Walter Damon.

May wanted a modern house but not being able to tear the old house down she decided to build it "up". Elliot Wade was the carpenter who in 1907 made the two-and-a-half story house in which Dr. Brâil now lives, from the tiny cape cod cottage of Heman Thomas.

The original "el" was moved onto Union Street for a residence and the windmill was moved onto Fred Snow's land.

LUTHER HOLMES PLACE

This house was built in 1847 by Caleb Barker for Luther Holmes for whom Holmes Street was named. On the 1830 map Holmes Street is shown as School Street. The house was situated where the bungalow of Stewart White now (1960) stands.

Mr. Holmes came from Dorchester to work in the old "Tunk" forge. He made a private contract with the owners to work for $1.25 per day. The contract was to be kept secret for $1.25 was considered big wages in those days.

The house was totally destroyed by fire November 20, 1912. Help was slow in arriving, it was in dry season so that the well was pumped dry in two minutes. With no water service the building was doomed. The frame which was of oak was slow burning, as if the stout timbers defied even the flames.

The barn on the opposite side of the street did not burn. It was dismantled by Norman MacKenzie and the lumber was used in Walter Calder's second store on Main Street (1921) opposite the Arthur Sampson place.

CHAPMAN HOUSE

The old house at "Chapman's Corner" on the corner of East Washington Street and the westerly side of New State Street is probably of pre-revolutionary origin.

It was a Ramsdell house which passed to the Chapmans when Hilda Ramsdell married Luther Chapman. It was in this house that Sumner Allen Chapman was born in 1874.

He attended the Hanson public schools, and after graduating from Williams College, taught at Pembroke High School. Later he entered the office of Judge Charles G. Edson in Whitman to study law.

Soon after being admitted to the bar in 1902 he opened a law office in Rockland and Plymouth. He won fame in the legal field when he was appointed by the Superior Court to defend Emil Saari of Carver, accused of killing Carl Halien and acquitted him.

Mr. Chapman was elected representative to the General Court from the district composed of Hanson, Hanover and Rockland. He was made a Registrar of Probate Court, October 1906.

The house on the easterly side of New State Street at the corner of East Washington Street, which later became Dwelley Street was built by Luther W. Chapman, not long after 1874, and used thereafter for residence by the Chapmans.

The Chapmans were quite interested in Oakland Hall and were members of the group which erected and maintained it.

THE FERDINAND BOURNE HOUSE

The Ferdinand Bourne house on Washington Street once stood on the corner next to the home of Harold Churchill. It was built by Theodore Cobb, Jeremiah Soper, and John Tolman for a shoe manufactory. The venture did not prove successful and the building was converted into a dwelling house.

A Dr. Bowdoin lived in it and kept a post office in the front entry. Dr. Bowdoin did not remain long in town. The story is told that his name was originally "Towle" and he changed it to Bowdoin, then in order to obtain some property he had it changed to Towle again.

Dr. Bowdoin was fond of science and research in different lines. During his stay here, a society was organized and some chemical apparatus purchased. After Dr. Bowdoin left town the society disbanded and the apparatus was sold for twelve dollars and the amount placed in the Plymouth Savings Bank by Rev. Freeman Howland, the treasurer.

At the time of Mr. Howland's death it had amounted to one hundred dollars and it was his expressed wish that this money be turned over to the Hanson Library Association for the purchase of books. The administrator of Mr. Howland's estate did that. In return the Library Association made all the living members of the old society and their wives honorary members of the Association.

The Ferdinand Bourne House (Cont.)

The house finally came into the possession of Philemon Perkins and he moved it to its present location on West Washington Street. The latest owner - 1959 - was Harry Holbrook.

FRANK BOURNE HOUSE

The Frank Bourne place on Washington Street which Joseph B. White almost entirely rebuilt years ago was a very old place. Francis Bourne, father of the late Frank Bourne, bought it of Captain Nathaniel Collamore.

Captain Collamore had a store near his house, and was the first postmaster in Hanson.

Mr. Bourne thought the place must have been nearly two hundred years old when it was rebuilt. It had many signs of antiquity about it. One was, that it was not boarded over as buildings usually are, but heavy wide oak timbers were placed in an upright position and tenoned into the sills.

Next to this house were the vats where the elder Joseph White used to have a tannery.

Mr. Fred Murray, Washington Street occupies the house now (1960).

EPHRIAM COX HOUSE

This was the first house built on Spring Street, Ephriam Cox was the father of Ephriam, Jr., William and others. He was the mail carrier, taking the mail from the Hanson post office to Hanover Four Corners to meet the stage four days in the week and to Bridgewater the other two days.

Charles Thrasher lived in this house. Roy Turner is the present (1960) occupant, - 248 Spring Street.

WILLIAM COX HOUSE (SPRING STREET)

The William Cox House was built by Robert Thomas. Misses Rachel and Anne Cushing were once owners and during their life time it was called "Aunt Rachel and Aunt Anne's house".

Their niece, Miss Rachel Thomas, before her marriage to Nathaniel Cushing kept a private kindergarten in one of the chambers.

Samuel T. Bourne was a pupil at this school.

HOWLAND FARM: STATION STREET

On the shores of Poor Meadow river joining the Joseph White estate lies the soOcalled Howland farm. This was formerly owned by Thomas Collamore and he built the house which was destroyed by fire.

In 1826 Reverend Freeman P. Howland was called to settle in the ministry in Hanson. His first wife died in 1828 and he married Deborah Swain, his second wife a grand-daughter of Thomas Collamore.

Mr. Howland continued as pastor of the church for eight years, then his health failed and he gave up his pastoral relations. He moved to Abington where he engaged in business, but the old homestead continued to remain in the family until it burned. The Howland family has never lost its interest in the Church and the people in Hanson.

Mr. Charles Oertal lives (1960) on the Howland foundation. The upper part of the house was a building moved to the site from County Road.

THE IVY STONE FARM

This unique house with its gambrel roof and pinkish stone exterior walls facing on brick is located on Main Street's northerly side, east of Reed Street, and is the Easternmost dwelling on the Former Benjamin Hanks farm.

It is the oldest house standing on that historic location and closest to the exact spot as described in 1912 edition of the Bryantville News by Mercer V. Tillson as, "just South of the apple tree which has grown from the stump of a former one". The ancient apple tree still standing just north of this stone house is, very likely, the very one he described.

We do not know who actually built the house, but the first known to have lived in it is the same Jonathan Reed Gurney mentioned in the Bryantville News by Alfred G. Reed who wrote the history of the Baptist Chnrch.

Mr. Gurney, a resident of South Abington (now East Whitman) became interested in the work of the South Hanson Baptist Church, five miles away.

Each Sunday he drove from his home to attend the meetings and give encouragement to the people here, often bringing a carriage load of friends. At length he moved to the Ivy Stone Farm to be more closely in touch with the church work.

Mr. Gurney was not only deacon of the South Hanson Baptist Church, but was interested in the Baptist movement as early as 1814, a time when there were only eleven churches

in the county.

The following story is a family tradition told by Emma F. Gurney Look - his granddaughter.

"Jonathan Gurney was placed in a tomb in Mt. Zion Cemetery, Whitman, after his death. Some time later, when preparing to inter his remains, the heavy weight of the casket seemed strange and upon investigation his body was found to have turned to stone. Therefore, instead of burying him, he was left in the tomb where he remains to this day." In later years, a Mr. Stepehn Collins lived in this old Stone House. He drove the only barrel wagon in the town - a wagon owned by Gilbert Brewster.

GAD SOPER HOUSE: SPRING STREET

Captain Nathaniel Soper, an uncle of Gad Soper, was brother to Isaac who built the Drew House. When planning a house for himself declared he would build a bigger and better house than his brother built. He arranged to make it a foot larger each way and to finish it in a more elaborate manner.

The carpenter who built this house went into the woods, cut down the trees, hauled out the lumber and did the carpenter work for $60.00.

Captain Soper had no children and he willed the use of his property to his nephew Gad during his lifetime for the care of him and his wife.

Gad Soper kept a tavern in the house. There were formerly two large balm of gilead trees in front of his house, and from one of these trees the old time sign swung creaking to and fro.

A small room on the south side was used as a tap room and office. An outside door opening into the yard made it easy of access. A closet still remains in the room where, no doubt, some of the liquor was kept.

The large airy rooms have been the scene of many good times in years gone by and this was a favorite place for the young people to gather for "Kitchen Sprees".

Mrs. Mary Carter is the present (1960) occupant of this house - 117 Spring Street.

OTHER OLD HOUSES IN HANSON

At the corner of Whitman and Winter Streets in the "Swamp" is an old house. How old it is no one remembers. The Bowkers or Bukers as they were called in the early days of the West Parish, owned it. Mrs. Thomas Macomber was born here, living to be nearly one hundred years old. She died in 1883.

On Brook Street is a gambrel roofed house, well preserved, and formerly occupied by the late Horace Stevens. It is thought that this may have been built for a boarding house in the palmy days of the tack business when it was carried on successfully at the near-by privilege on the Indian Head River.

On Winter Street a house is seen in which lived Rev. Ephraim Hapgood, a former pastor of the South Hanson Baptist Church. It was built by Isaac Beals and bought by Thomas Macomber of Marshfield. He manufactured wooden tubs and buckets by hand.

Mr. Macomber was a strong anti-slavery man and many prominent abolitionists were entertained here at different times. Among them were George Thompson, an English reformer and philanthropist, and William Wells Brown, the escaped slave who lectured for the cause.

The Robert Perry place in the same neighborhood, now owned by Mr. Edward Wenz, was built by Henry Perry, great grandfather of Robert Perry.

Other Old Houses in Hanson (Cont.)

Crossing a bridge over the Indian Head River and following a lane which leads from Winter Street to its end, is the Nathaniel Pratt place. It was built by Ezekiel Bonney, great, great grandfather of Otis L. Bonney about 1759. His son Joseph came into possession of the place and his son Ezekiel (grandson of the first Ezekiel) was born here. At thirteen years of age he was fifer at Dorchester Heights at the time the British evacuated Boston in 1776.

It was this Ezekiel who built the house on Bonney Hill in 1795, named "Hill Crest" now occupied by Robert Walkey.

At the Town Hall corner opposite Dame's Waiting Room - how Walkey's Store - stands an old house known as the Elijah Ramsdell house. It was built by Charles Howland, a carpenter and brother of Rev. Freeman Howland.

The Carr house on Liberty Street was built for John Tolman. He lived there for a time and then moved to North Bridgewater - now Brockton - where his sons and grandsons became prominent in business.

A Rev. Mr. Wales once resided where Harold Churchill now lives at the corner of Spring and Washington Streets.

Mr. Wales did not find the ministry especially remunerative so he took up cabinet making. After his death his widow married Martin Beals who continued cabinet work.

Other Old Houses in Hanson (Cont.)

This house was moved from Bonney Hill to its present location for a widow Taylor who occupied it until her death.

Luther Holmes Place - Built 1847

For whom Holmes St. was named

Old John Keene Homestead

(High St.)

The Old Cobb House

Built in 1803 - (West Washington St.)

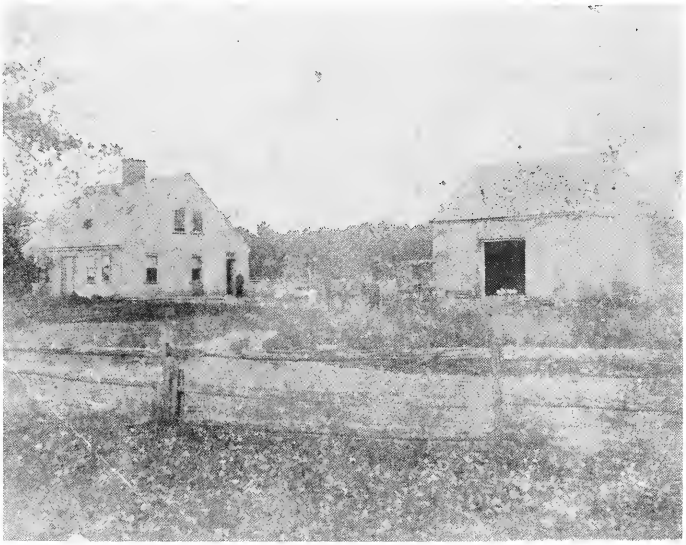
Elijah Cushing House Built 1724 (Corner of Washington and Liberty Sts.)

Gen. Benj. Lincoln, of Revolutionary War fame married one of Elijah Cushing's daughters in this house

The Magoun Homestead, originally built

for a shoe shop at the corner of County Rd. and W. Washington Sts.

Later moved to its present location on (W. Washington St.)



Zalmond Briggs Homestead

(Pleasant St.)

Gad Soper House

Soper's Tavern (Spring St.)

Ebenezer B. Keene House

Built 1821 (O High St.)

Chapman's House - Chapman Corner

pre-revolutionary origin (Corner of State and E. Washington Sts.)

Naham Stetson place - (King St. near Hanover line) Built late 1600's

The 3 Buttonwood Trees in front were set out the day

of the Battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775

Caleb Barker Estate

Now the Pine Tree Rest Home (Whitman St.)

Sunny Side Cottage of the Gordon Rest Home

formerly Almshouse and now a private residence

(Indian Head St.)

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

The School System and the Early Teachers

EARLY SCHOOL LAWS

The colony of Massachusetts Bay, tho' younger than that at Plymouth was the first to make public provision for education. As early as 1635 the town of Boston "that our brother Philemon Purmont be urged to become schoolmaster for the teaching and instructing of children among us." Thus was the first school provided, tho' neither universal nor free.

The next step was in 1642, when the Bay colony passed a law declaring it the duty of town authorities under penalty of 20 shillings to see that every child within their jurisdiction should "be taught to read the English language and know the capital laws." This law made universal education compulsory, but did not make it free, nor compulsory on the towns to maintain schools. The town fathers must see only that children receive instruction, either at home or from a teacher.

Five years later (1647) the same colony passed a law which is the foundation of our system of universal free education.

It made compulsory on every town of 50 householders the maintenance of a free public school, and the appointment of a teacher for "all such children as shall resort to him to write and read."

If the towns contained 100 householders it should also maintain a "grammar (Latin) school" to instruct youth so far as they may be fitted for the university.

Early School Laws (Cont.)

The grammar school was generally evaded, but the English school was usually provided, located in the center of the town, often in the meeting house or in a room hired for that purpose.

Plymouth colony, less wealthy than its neighbor, made no public provision for schools until 1670, tho' schools existed earlier.

In 1670 a free school supported by the profits from the Cape Cod fisheries was established at Plymouth and seven years later (1677) the General Court authorized towns of 50 families to support a school by taxation and fined those of 70 families which maintained no school, dividing the fines and profits from the fisheries among those which did.

In 1691 Plymouth Colony was united to the Bay Colony, and after that the latter's school laws applied equally to the towns of the old colony. Despite these laws there was little school progress before 1700.

Towns in some instances failed to maintain a school and the fines for neglect were gradually increased. Yet it was something that schools had continued to exist during religious debates which broke up communities and drove non-members of the Church of England into the wilderness of Connecticut and New Hampshire; through the terrors of King Philip's War and its constant feat of massacre; through the witchcraft delusion and war with the French in Canada.

Fear of Indian invasions no longer held the settlers close together for safety. Outlying parts of the townships were settled, and there was some degree of comfort and prosperity. The single school, in the center of the town, no longer was needed; the outside sections demanded better accommodations. So we find the town school "travelling" or "moving" for part of the year to each "angle" or "squadron," as the different parts of the town were called.

This naturally led to the next step (about 1750), - the division of the town into "Districts," as the "squadrons" are now called, each district drawing its share of the school money to spend as it pleased.

It was not until 1789 that this practice was allowed by law, but from the first the district took independent control of the schools. They decided the length of summer and winter schools, instructed their agent in the selection of teachers, decided their pay, auctioned off their board to the lowest bidder, provided fuel and made repairs. Thus the single town school ended and the era of independent district schools began.

The district school system was democracy carried to extremes. Then, as now, the town was the political unit, in which all were equal and entitled to equal advantages, but the district system produced one quality by giving more to populous, wealthy sections which others were denied. It was not democracy to all.

FIRST SCHOOL IN PEMBROKE AND HANSON

In the Duxbury records no mention is made of a school that was in that territory which became Pembroke (1712).

Pembroke failed to maintain a school for two years after its incorporation. December 13, 1714 Joseph Ford was chosen "to answer their presentment for want of a school" at the next General Court to explain the town's failure to maintain the prescribed schools, and win the remission of fines. Mr. Ford was successful, for the General Court was only too lenient, and the town, on the same date, had mended its ways by voting "to keep a school as the law directs, to provide a schoolmaster and to agree with him and find a place to keep it in until our annual meeting in March."

The authorized school was kept by Ensign Francis Barker, for those services the town voted seven pounds, ten shillings. This appears to be the first school in what is now Pembroke and Hanson, doubtless located near the meeting house in Center Pembroke.

March 21, 1715 "Ye town voated ye selectmen should agree with an provide a scolmaster and a schollhouse to keep scoll in for ye year insuing." A school room was found, but not a schoolmaster, so Rebecca Turner became the first schoolmistress of a Pembroke school.

The following October 1715 the town voted to build three school houses, - one near the meeting house; one in

Pembroke; and one in what is now Hanson.

This was the first division of the town into "angles" or "squadrons." The school then began its travels, for in January 1716 it was voted, "that the school be kept the half of the year in the middle of the town by the meeting house annually in the school house."

North Pembroke and Hanson were not satisfied with crumbs; they demanded an equal share with the center of the town.

In March 1717 it was voted to keep three schools, one at the east, one in the middle, and one in Hanson. Twenty-four pounds was raised ($120) to be equally divided between them, provided they kept "school master, schoolmistresses or school dames satisfactory to the selectmen" who at that time acted as school committee.

It seems this arrangement was not suitable for the selection of Thomas Parris in 1724 as schoolmaster for the coming year at a salary of thirty pounds marks the return to the single town school, tho' probably a "moving school".

In 1734 it was still a moving school. The town voted it "should be kept in three parts of the town, in the middle, and at each end, and every part to find their own school house and have the school" for a time "proportionate" to the number of families and lived nearest to each school house.

First School in Pembroke and Hanson (Cont.)

As late as 1753 school houses had not been built and education was furnished by the single "moving school".

In October 1753 a committee was appointed to agree on sites for four school houses. They recommended one in North Pembroke, one in East Pembroke, and one in the center of the town. For the fourth in Hanson they were undecided and suggested that houses be built in two places, the same to be kept alternate years in each. It seems safe to say that our forefathers did not sanction building schoolhouses to remain idle nearly two years at a time.

FIRST SCHOOL SITE IN HANSON

September 9, 1754 the first school site in Hanson was established, altho' until 1820 this was all one town of Pembroke. "It was voted that the school should be kept in two places, one, near the country road near Mr. Hitchcock's and the other near Faxon's fence between him and Bisbee." Then the vote was called whether they would build one school-house or more and it passed in the negative. Then it was voted that the school house should be built by subscription. The one built near Mr. Hitchcock's was used more than 40 years as records dated 1795 show that Dr. Hitchcock bought the old school-house.

The site of the second school-house was on the Bridgewater road opposite where Hanson Grange now is - a little to the west.

These two school-houses served their purpose for many years. There is nothing on the records to show there were any others until after 1820 when West Parish became Hanson.

OLD SCHOOL-HOUSES IN HANSON AND WHAT HAS BECOME OF THEM

A school house used until 1840 was located on the lot where the present Washington Street School is. Mr. Joseph White and Mr. Lot Barker attended this school. It was sold and moved to land belonging to Lot Barker where it was made into a dwelling. The next school building was built on this site about 1867 and continued as such until 1923 when by vote of the town it was decided to build a new brick school house. The old wooden building was sold at public auction on July 5, 1924 to Almira Ladouscour for $235. Mrs. Ladouscour moved the building to Charles Street, Whitman and converted it into a dwelling.

Another old school-house once stood on a site now occupied by Mr. Lloyd Hammond and family near South Hanson depot and opposite what was once Wampatuck Hall (now owned and used as Masonic Lodge rooms by Wampatuck Lodge of Masons A. F. and A. M.) This school house was equipped with a fireplace that would take five-foot wood. The late Mr. George Howland once attended this school. It burned in 1846.

The "Bournetown" school originally built at the corner of South and Pleasant Streets was moved in 1860 to the spot

where Grange Hall now stands and remained there until 1880 when it was sold to the late Mr. Edwin T. Clark for $65. It was moved December 31, 1881 to the spot it now occupies, near H. T. Clark's store and used as a store house.

In 1881 Edward Pendleton built a South Grammar school house on this site at the expense of $1248.08 and which in 1907 was moved to the Reed Street lot donated by the Hanson Mfg. Co. - to become Primary No. 7.

In 1907 the town voted to build a two-room school building on the South Grammar lot which was ready for use September 12, 1908.

Another old time school house once stood at the foot of Bonney Hill and was situated about opposite the residence of what was once Norman MacKenzie's. The late Albert S. Barker, Otis L. Bonney and Lot Phillips all attended this school before 1860. In 1867, the year the schools were graded, this school building was moved to a location on Washington Street near Thomas Hall.

An old time school house that was standing in 1830 on what is now called Whitman Street was located just below Willett's Hill. This building was sold in 1853 by the town to Mr. Thomas Pratt and moved to the Beach Hill road and made into a dwelling for the use of Jacob D. Pratt. After the building was moved, a new school house was built on this same site (1887). It was

used until 1923 when on July 5, 1924 it was sold at Public Auction to Nettie L. Keene for $1050 and made into a dwelling.

On Holmes Street, formerly called School Street, there was a school from 1850 to 1867. It was formerly on land owned by Samuel Briggs but moved across the wall to land owned by Luther Holmes. Joseph White attended this school and one day for some infraction of the rules his teacher Miss Judith Cook sent him home with his hands tied back of him. My grandmother, Elsiedana White and my great aunt Sara J. Bryant taught in this school.

A school taught by Aurora Whitten was located on Washington Street, the exact location of which I do not know. It was discontinued in 1840 and moved to the house formerly occupied by Mrs. Hannah Bates at the corner of Whitman and Beach Streets - attached to the house as a woodshed.

Primary School No. I on Washington Street was built in 1871. It was discontinued as a school in 1922 and sold at auction on July 5, 1924 to Edgar C. Smith for $650. This building was built by Benjamin W. Josselyn.

There had been a school house on State Street previous to the erection of No. I primary. In 1871 it was sold to Melzar Sprague, house, land, and underpinning for $93.93.

A primary school house was built on Elm Street in 1845 and stood about 200 feet south of the Isaac Chamberlain place.

Old School Houses in Hanson and What Has Become of Them

This section was designated as District No. 4 prior to 1867 when the district system was done away with and the schools were numbered.

At this time the school was moved onto Main Street where the Hanson Lawn Mower Shop is located. Merton Howard attended this school, as did Irving Bryant. In 1939 it was moved to near Main and Pleasant Street corner, close to the L. Z. Thomas brick school house.

EARLY DISTRICT SCHOOLS

The early district schools were about the same type as those all over the state. They were small frame buildings with a small entrance porch where was stored the winter's fuel of oak and pine. At the north end of the schoolroom was the fireplace, a closet and the teacher's table. Across the south end, with an aisle in the middle, were two rows of desks, facing the firplace, the rear row on a slightly raised platform above the floor. Each of the four desks had seats for three scholars. On either side of the room at right angles to those above mentioned was a longer desk with a seat against the wall each seating perhaps six pupils. The desk room was furnished for 24 scholars. The smaller children sat on a low seat built in front of the two long desks, crowded together as the attendance might require, with no desk or place to keep their books.

Until 1843 the middle of the room was empty. Here the classes recited, toeing the cracks in the flooring for a mark to line up by. Four small windows of 7" x 9" glass, one in each side and one in the south end furnished light. Ventila- was provided by the fireplace and broken windows. The ceiling and walls were boarded, minus paint, but stained by time as was the outside.

The early district schools were not built for health, comfort or ornaments, but on the idea that anything was good enough yet they were not without decoration, for when the carpenter's work was done, the boy's work began, carving various designs that displayed the result of a fertile brain.

In 1843 the fireplace was replaced with a stove in the middle of the room. The old fireplace was bricked up, the whole front of the chimney boarded and made into a blackboard.

Hanson had five district schools - one in the Cushing district, one in the Loudon district, one in Parson Barstow's district, one in Squire Barker's district, one on Cox Street. As the population increased, the districts were divided until there were nine. The distribution of scholars May 1859 is as follows:

District 1	66 pupils
District 2	43 pupils
District 3	31 pupils
District 4	21 pupils
District 5	17 pupils
District 6	14 pupils
District 7	8 pupils
District 8	30 pupils
District 9	30 pupils

The whole number of scholars in town was 260.

By law, there should be at least six months schooling every year in each district, but none of them averaged six months a year.

EDUCATION IN THE DISTRICT SCHOOLS

The education received in those old school houses was crude and rough. Until nearly 1800 the town schools were essentially "reading and writing" schools and were so called. Sometimes a little Arithmetic was taught, but not until 1789 was it required, together with spelling and decent behavior.

The child's first steps were taken with that most famous of all early text books, "The New England Primer".

Beginning with the alphabet, large and small, there followed lists of words for spelling starting with words of one syllable and ending with "abomination, justification," etc. Then followed some moral injunctions "Pray to God," "Hate a lie,"; then some Bible questions and answers, selections from Proverbs, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles Creed, Watts Cradle Hymn, then various hymns and lastly the Westminster Catechism.

Having mastered the primer, the child passed on to the Psalter and then to the Bible and Catechism to which the school gave most as much attention as did the churches.

With a quill and home made ink he learned to write religious texts on vagrant sheets of paper or on a few unused pages of an old blank book.

Two terms were the rule. Summer school beginning in May was taught by a lady. Winter term beginning after Thanksgiving was taught by a man. Large boys and young men who had been at work on the farm or elsewhere often made up a large part of the school in winter.

Teachers signed no contracts in those early days. Hand written notices of approbation were given to the teacher and worded as follows:

Hanson, April 25, 1865

This certifies that we, being acquainted with the qualifications of Miss Grace F. Cobb as an instructor, do hereby approbate her to teach the school in District 8, the ensuing season.

Alonso Colton
School Committee

In 1865 a Prudential Committee was chosen for each district to select teachers, and look after the moral, physical and intellectual interests of the children.

District #2	Nathaniel Pratt, Jr.
District #3	Granville C. Moore
District #4	Edward Y. Perry
District #5	Lucius Fuller
District #7	Friend W. Howland
District #8	E. B. K. Gurney
Union District 1 and 6	John Ellmes (primary) Benjamin White (higher dept.)

THE GRADED SYSTEM IN HANSON

Our 1867 school committee, Levi Z. Thomas, Otis L. Bonney, and Joseph Smith believed that the time had come to abolish the district system. They felt that we had too many and too small schools. They suggested that we establish five primary and two grammar schools.

Levi Z. Thomas quoted from the 29th report of the Board of Education in which Horace Mann said, "I consider the Law of 1789, authorizing towns to divide themselves into districts, the most unfortunate law on the subject of common schools ever enacted in the State."

On February 1, 1867 Mr. Thomas requested the following article inserted in the town warrant, "To act on the question 'Will the town abolish the school district system?' or 'Will the town abolish the school district system?' or 'Will they district the town anew?'".

In 1868 the graded system is in working order in Hanson. Scholars in each school are more nearly of the same age and engaged in the same studies. There is more harmony and good feeling among them.

For convenience the several primary schools are numbered,

Number I is in New State
Number II near the Alms House
Number III at Capt. Gurney's Corner
Number IV on Beal's Hill, near South Hanson depot
Number V in North Hanson, near Lawrence McGough's

The North Grammar was taught by Miss Willemena J. Beytes, a teacher of experience. The South Grammar was taught by Mr. Edward Hersey, a Normal School graduate.

PRIVATE SCHOOL AND ACADEMIES

About this time those most interested in education extablished private schools and academies which furnished the means for a higher education.

D. G. Thompson, principal, opened the Bryantville Institute in Josselyn's Hall, located on the corner of Union and Plymouth Street, Bryantiville - now a two-tenement house - on September 6, 1865. The fall term continued eleven weeks. Tuition was $5.00 for Common English; $5.50 for Higher English and $6.50 for Languages.

A thorough and comprehensive course of instruction was offered in English Grammar, Advanced Algebra, Double Entry Bookkeeping, Rhetoric, Surveying and Navigation, geometry and Trigonometry.

F. A. Holmes opened a writing school at Bryant's Hall. He received pupils of all ages and each acquired an elegant style of writing. The terms were 16 lessons of one hour each for $1.00, stationery included. As an incentive to improvement a Gold Pencil was awarded.

Private School and Academies (Cont.)

In 1851 there was a private school in Elijah Damon's hall. This hall was a portion of the Damon homestead (where the Clam Hut now is). It was sold to Israel Thrasher, moved to Bryantville for a residence and is now (1960) occupied by Arthur Eldredge. The school was taught by L. E. Shepard, followed by B. F. Willard for two years. This school was well patronized.

In 1879 a school was held in the same place and taught by William F. Nichols. It was not large in numbers, but well repaid all who attended.

An entry in a diary written by Otis L. Bonney February 2, 1863 states that he went to writing school in the schoolhouse. Mr. Bugbee taught the class of 30 scholars. The tuition was $1.00 and stationery was furnished.

February 21, 1863 Mr. Bonney states that the teacher is an excellent penman and has given satisfaction to all. "Flourishes and birds set off our books."

COMMITTEE PROBLEMS

In 1879, after twelve years of the graded system, Nathaniel W. Cushing, chairman of the school board, felt that we were not spending our school money in the best possible manner, and that a change would be beneficial.

George F. Stetson and Levi Z. Thomas, the other members of the committee withheld their signatures from the school committee

report. This is the only time in the history of Hanson that members of a committee have failed to sign the Chairman's report. Mr. Stetson and Mr. Thomas presented a Dissenting Report stating that they were not able to endorse all the views of the Chairman. They felt that in theory and practice the graded system was the most simple and effective method for the instruction of the young.

A "Free Text Book and Supplies" law was enacted by the Legislature of 1884 and took effect on August 1st. The provisions of this law, so far as the supplying of text books extends, were anticipated by our Town in 1878. The plan was a saving of trouble and expense to the people and a benefit to the schools.

In 1885 the committee felt duty bound to offer an explanation of their action in the celebrated Valentine Case.

In 1883 the committee received a bill for $9.20 from the Town of South Abington, for tuition for Valentine children.

They did not receive a bill for tuition for the Stebbins children, who lived farther from our schools and nearer those of South Abington.

The Committee was not able to agree upon any line of action, and therefore it was brought up in town meeting - March 2, 1885 and again March 28th.

After thinking it over for nearly a month, the people of

the town wanted to pay the tuition, yet the town had no legal right to instruct the committee how to spend their money.

Just before the beginning of the Fall term the majority of the committee voted to pay tuition for two of Mr. Valentine's children and all of the Stebbins' children who were under 12 years of age.

That same year a bit of fence trouble developed in South Hanson. The owner of land adjoining the South Grammar School yard informed the Committee that the yard fence was so poor it would not keep his cows in his pasture and requested that it be repaired. The Committee examined the fence and found it so rotten that it was difficult to decide where to begin and where to end repairs.

They were instructed that a new fence could be built for a much less sum than it finally cost when all completed. It seemed better to build a new fence than to waste money in repairing the rotten one. The cost, $116.45, was greatly increased due to the fact that the old fence had to be kept cow-proof while the new one was being built.

A third expense this year was the digging of a well in the yard at the South Grammar School. The neighbors would not allow the scholars to take water from their wells, especially in dry seasons. Luther Hatch was paid $10.82 for digging a well.

Committee Problems (Cont.)

The Committee knew they were spending more than was appropriated and the 1885 balance would be on the wrong side of the account, but they felt that the town would wish them to do so.

FIRST AND LAST GRADUATING CLASSES AT WHITMAN HIGH SCHOOL

The first class to graduate from the Whitman High School was in 1886. Prior to this time the High School had been the South Abington High.

There were thirteen members in the class, and my mother, Catharine White, was the Hanson member. Graduation took place July 2, 1886 with a reception at Village Hall and dancing from 9 to 12.

Hanson's school committee was Clara F. Josselyn, George F. Simpson, Levi Z. Thomas. Whitman's school committee was L. B. Hatch, B. F. Hastings, Horace Reed.

/ Horace E. Henderson was principal and Mrs. Henrietta Blake, assistant.

Nannie B. Holmes and Dana M. Pratt were in the class of 1887. Hanson did not pay the tuition in those days. A tuition fund of $10.00 was paid by Joseph White, Joseph Holmes, and Dana Pratt. This fund amounted to $5.00 per term per pupil.

The high school sessions opened at 8:45 AM and 1:45 PM with a 15 minute recess each half day.

First and Last Graduating Classes at Whitman High School

Singing and spelling were taught daily; Writing, Drawing, and Reading twice each week; Composition and Declamation weekly.

The Course of Study was outlined as follows:

	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year
1st Term	Arithmetic Grammar Physiology	Algebra Physical Geog. Latin or Nat'l.Hist.	Geometry Physics Latin or Geology	Chemistry French Latin or Pol.Econ.
2nd Term	Same	Algebra Physical Geog. Bookkeeping Latin or Nat. Hist. or U.S.Hist.	Same	Chemistry Eng.Lit. Fr. or Pol.Econ. Latin or Botany
3rd Term	Arithmetic Grammar Exper.Sc.	Geometry Bookkeeping Latin or US History	Astronomy Arithmetic Latin or Geology	Eng.Lit. French Latin or Botany
Weekly	Geography Ancient Hist.	Rhetoric Mediaeval History	Rhetoric Modern History	Civil Government

Parents furnished transportation by purchasing a monthly book of 30 train rides to and from Whitman for $1.00. Pupils walked to the station, took the early morning train to Whitman, and walked from the Whitman station to the High School. Afternoons they walked down the track home, thus saving a long wait for the afternoon train.

Whitman High School held high standards and brought forth men and women of stamina.

From the High School, Dana Pratt entered Mass. Institute of

Technology, graduating with honors.

Mother entered the Conservatory of Music to study the organ.

Nannie B. Holmes went right into teaching at No.5 Primary, in Hanson.

The last class to graduate from Whitman High School was in 1959. The 1960 class graduated under the Whitman-Hanson Regional Organization even though they had never seen the inside of the new Regional school. There were 144 graduates in 1959, of whom were a number of Hanson pupils. Tuition was $271.00 per pupil and the transportation $53.32 per pupil.

HANSON SCHOOL COMMITTEES AND SUPERINTENDENTS

In 1867 the Legislature in its wisdom abolished the District School System and placed the care and management of the schools in the sole charge of the School Committee, who were before chosen annually, and could be changed every year if they did not give satisfaction.

Then it seems that the Legislature was determined to take the care of the schools from the people and made a law that the School Committee should be chosen for three years, thereby making them almost independent of the parents.

Hanson School Committees and Superintendents (Cont.)

From the very first, Hanson chose men of high caliber to serve on their school committee. Men like George F. Stetson, Levi Z. Thomas, Nathaniel W. Cushing, Alonzo Colton, Otis L. Bonney, and Benjamin Southworth served many years.

They had high standards and did not hesitate to report unsuccessful attempts at teaching and lack of discipline on the teacher's part. George Forbes Stetson wrote the first school report, urging the ownership of all school books and property by the town (1860). Nothing was under cover in those days. Everything was right out in the open for the taxpayer to see. Dorothy Dyer Stetson (wife of George Forbes Stetson), a highly successful teacher in the schools of Hanson, although declining to accept the position, was the first woman ever chosen upon the school committee. Clara F. Josselyn was the first woman to serve - 1885.

In 1952 a five-member school committee functioned for the first time - Calvin Howland, Emiline Puddington, Marion Mann, Carl Meinhold, and John Harriott.-

On March 5, 1894 the town voted to join with the towns of Hanover and Norwell, or either of them or with such other towns as may vote to join with this town in the employment of a Superintendent of Schools.

Hanover and Norwell united with us in the employment of the following superintendents:

Hanson School Committees and Superintendents (Cont.)

1894 - 1899	Albert J. Curtis
1900 - 1904	Christie A. Record
1905 - 1907	Charles A. Harris
1908 - 1917	James S. Hayes
1918 - 1923	Stepehn C. Bean
1924 - 1927	Leon M. Farrin
1928 - 1931	Harold Jackson
1932 - 1938	Willard B. Spalding
1939 - 1942	Thomas E. Rush
1943 -	Clifton E. Bradley

Highlights of Earlier Years

The maintenance of our common and free schools is of almost vital importance as highlights of earlier years will show:

1876: Drawing has been added as a regular study to be taught in all the schools.

1878: The study of music is introduced under the direction of Miss Mary F. Perry (salary $43.00)

1889: An outline of work in both primary and grammar schools is printed in the town report that all may know of the daily schedule.

1890: An evening school was opened in South Grammar with 25 young men in attendance.

1895: The first exhibition of school work is shown in Town Hall in June. This showed the regular work of the schools as far as it could be committed to paper.

1896: Vertical hand writing is introduced. A second exhibition is held in March for the town meeting. The course of study is revised and more time given to Reading and History.

1898: A 10th grade is established as Whitman did not admit a class last fall. An official statement is issued from the Whitman School Committee stating they cannot accommodate pupils to enter this year. They will take care of those already there.

1899: Summer vacation is prolonged two weeks to allow pupils to pick cranberries. The March vacation is shortened to meet State requirements.

1900: A room is rented at Evie Drew's to house books and supplies.

1901: Graduations take place, North Grammar at Thomas Hall, South Grammar at Wampatuck Hall.

1902: Written examinations are given at Town Hall to pupils of the two Grammar Schools.

1905: An all girl class graduates from South Grammar School. The graduates are Maude G. Brewster, Bernice S. Cogan, Emma F. Ferris, Norma Y. Howard, Doris King, Lucy F. Marshall, Lucy E. Moore, Hattie L. Tarr, Addie I. Thomas.

1906: Single, adjustable seats and desks are installed. Teachers are required to test the sight and hearing of all pupils in public schools. Flavel S. Thomas is appointed as school physician.

1908: South Grammar is open for inspection on Sept. 12th.

1909: The first "Hanson Grammar School" graduation is held at Town Hall on June 18th.

1913: The Aldine System of reading is introduced.

1915: Something new in our school life is the victrolla.

1917: Primary No. 2 is closed and the 15 pupils transported by trolley to No. 6.

1920: Abolition of 9th grade. Primary teachers now have 4 grades instead of 5.

1921: Our school year is increased in length from 38 to 40 weeks.

1923: The State law requires an assistant when there is an excess of 50 pupils in a room. Winnifred Berry was employed as an assistant at South Grammar. Lyda Boulanger was appointed school nurse, December, she held this position 25 years giving freely of herself in her nursing supervision of youth. She retired in June 1949.

1925: Because of suspension of the trolley service, bus transportation is adopted for the High School pupils.

1926: The Community Service Committee of Hanson Grange organized and financed a clinic for the inspection and treatment of teeth of Hanson school children.

1927: Through the courtesy of the Hanson fire department a "No School" system has been provided for the school department.

1929: L. Z. Thomas School is opened. Names for Levi Zelida Thomas, a teacher in Hanson for twenty years, and a member of the School Board for several years.

1930: On May 1930 a public speaking contest was held, embracing the schools of the three towns, at Hanover Town Hall.

1932: "Standard Tests" are given each pupil in Grades two through six.

1937: Grades seven and eight from the entire town are housed in the L. Z. Thomas School with a modified junior high school course of study offered.

1939: Our system has changed from nine one-room school buildings with four grades to one teacher, to a modernized system with a teacher for each grade.

1940: Attention is given to proper making and keeping of pupil records so essential to intelligent guidance and effective teaching.

1942: The Rinehard Functional Handwriting has been adopted.

1943: A decrease in enrollment in High School is noticed. Boys and girls have many attractive opportunities for making money and for taking the places of adults.

1944: As a result of the war married teachers have been brought into the school system, some of whom have been out of teaching for a number of years.

1946: The method of testing pupils in Grade 8 was changed to conform to those used in Whitman so that comparison and placement in High School might be uniform.

1949: A school band is organized under the leadership of Harry Iovenelli of Arlington.

1950: Land clearing started March 1st for a new 12-room building with auditorium and gymnasium.

1951: Indian Head School opens Sept. 10th. Total cost $654,499.77.

1955: Due to the polio situation, the opening of schools is delayed a week and a half.

1956: The school committee votes that all 8th grade graduates will attend Whitman High School beginning September 1957.

1957: The Whitman-Hanson Regional School District Committee is proceeding toward the construction of a high school for the district. They selected the site and the firm Korslund, LeNormand and Quann to work for them.

1958: Beginning Sept. 1959 the entrance age for children entering Grade I will be five years eight months so that a child must have been five on or before January 1st.

Early Teachers

Many of our early teachers were retained in their positions for many terms, and some for several years, signifying the estimation in which their services were held.

School committee comments concerning them follow:

1862: District #5
Sarah E. White was very much interested in her work, and the school was greatly benefited by her instruction. The order kept was excellent, there being no whispering or unnecessary noise.

1864: District #8
Grace F. Cobb has been firm, faithful, and persevering in her exertions.

District #4
Malinda A. Carr makes her first attempt at school teaching. The committee is well pleased with the good order and general management of the school under her care.

In 1886 Miss Carr, a veteran teacher of the town resigns. She had fine literary qualifications and during her 22 years of service, has been faithful in the discharge of her duty.

1881: #2 Primary
Annie F. Bass is an experienced teacher, have taught five and a half years, teaching in this school three years. The energy, fidelity, and thoroughness she has manifested in teaching have produced marked results.

Since her connection with the school, the children have become less noisy in the street, and more polite to passers by.

1881: #1 Primary
Lillie K. Lewis has taught this school one year, and though one of our youngest teachers, is thoroughly devoted to her work and gives promise of future success in her vocation.

Under her management this school has steadily improved in order, attendance and a love for study.

In 1886, Miss Lewis who had taught seventeen successive terms in the schools of the town, during the last three years of which she had filled the position of teacher in the South Grammar School, tendered her resignation (to attend Bridgewater Normal School).

1871: #5 Primary
Adelia T. Vinal, for several years past, this school has been under the care of the well-tried and faithful Miss Vinal.

This is a fine school of little boys and girls, and in discipline, it is almost a model of perfection. This school stands first in town for punctuality and attendance.

1888: #6 Primary
Catherine White showed good ability and under her management this school will soon rank with others in town.

1890: Music Department
Much progress has been made by our children in the music department under the faithful teaching of Miss Lucy A. Luther.

Plymouth County Teachers' Association

Teh 29th semi-annual meeting of the Plymouth County Teachers' Association was held on June 17th and 18th 1864 at Academy Hall at Hanover - Four Corners' Village.

Plymouth County Teachers' Association (Cont.)

Free return tickets were furnished on the Old Colony and Fall River Railroads.

Coaches to and from Hanover connected with trains on the Old Colony Railroad at North Abington.

Teachers were requested to make preparation for two discussions on Friday, the 17th and for one on Saturday, the 18th.

Ladies were requested to present essays on the same subjects.

Friday's topics were: "The best methods of conducting recitations so as to cultivate a retentive memory" and "Defects in Reading, and the best method of teaching to remedy them."

Saturday's topic was "How can pupils best be taught good manners?"

NAMES AND AGES OF ALL PERSONS In Town of Hanson
May 1, 1875 to January 29, 1876
Between 5 and 15 years of age (Those over 15 yrs. have a *)

Name	Age	Name	Age
A		B	
Alexander, Bertha C.	9	Bates, Albert	9
Alexander, John K	10	Bates, Charles A.	13
Alexander, Charles W.	6	Bates, Fred N.	10
Andrews, John F.	8	Bourne, Hattie J.	8
Andrews, Thomas E.	5	Bourne, Isaac H.	9
Atwood, Lucinda B.	11	Bourne, Arthur W.	10
		Bourne, Merton G.	7
		Bourne, Maria	12
		Bourne, Ferdinand A.	12
		Bourne, Arthur B.	9

NAMES AND AGES OF ALL PERSONS IN TOWN OF HANSON (Cont.)
May 1, 1875 to January 29, 1876
Between 5 and 15 years of age (those over 15 yrs. have an *)

Name	Age
B	
Bonney, Katie M.	6
Bonney, Addie C.	10
Bonney Flavilla	14
Bowker, Freddie W.	13
Bowker, Arthur E.	12
Bowker, Francilla	18*
Bowker, Clara	15½*
Bowman, Minnie E.	12
Bagan, John T.	12
Bagan, Lizzie E.	14
Baker, Ethlyn M.	8
Baker, Herbert A.	11
Bearce, Helen M.	14
Beal, Katie G.	7
Bearce, Joseph	10
Bushnell, Louis	5
Briggs, Carrie E.	12
Bryant, Edith E.	6
Brown, Addie R.	5
Brown, Albion M.	9
Brown, Elton A.	8
Berry, Amber C.	8
Bannican, Rose A.	12
Bannican, Lawrence	14
Brewster, George W.	11
Brewster, H. Gilbert	14
C	
Clark, Fred I.	12
Clark, Abbie J.	20*
Clark, Lucy	16*
Calder, Walter	11
Calder, Eugene	9
Calder, Emma B.	12
Chamberlain, Lydia J.	13
Cox, James E.	7
Cox, Herbert G.	5
Cox, Francis	9
Cook, Chester L.	6
Cobb, Alice F.	14
Cobb, George A.	8
D	
Dow, Franeena G.	6
Dow, Minnie E.	7
Dowley, Teresa A.	7
D	
Dowley, Mary E.	14
Dowley, Isabella	10
Damon, Walter E.	14
Damon, Emily C.	9
Drayton, John S.	14
E	
Everson, J. Herbert	9
Everson, D. Wennie	8
Everson, Frank M.	11
Everson, D. Walter	13
Everson, J. Weston	6
Estes, Amelia	5
Estes, Willie	10
Estes, Bertha F.	12
Estes, Edith E.	10
Estes, J. Josie	9
Estes, Elva L.	7
Estes, Walter	16*
Estes, Charles	16*
Estes, George C.	14
Evans, Carrie C.	12
F	
Ford, Clarence A.	11
Ford, Coraetta J.	8
Ford, Carrie E.	6
Ford, Lillie G.	5
Fisher, Thurston	8
G	
Goff, Lizzie	6
Gurney, Ella F.	11
Gardner, Gershom	10
Gardner, Emma	8
H	
Hatch, Frank	9
Hatch, Nathan	15½*
Hale, Alice E.	8
Howard, Channing Y	9
Howard, Esther J.	
Hood, Archie	7
Hood, Bertha	16*
Hill, Myrtle	16*

NAMES AND AGES OF ALL PERSONS IN TOWN OF HANSON
May 1, 1875 to January 29, 1876 Between 5 and 15 Years of Age
(those over 15 yrs. have an *) Cont.

Name	Age
H	
Hill, Hattie F.	5
Hill, Edward E.	9
Hill, Nellie W.	13
Hammond, Joshua W.	10
Hammond, Nellie E.	8
Hammond, Francis A.-	6
Holmes, Nannie B.	6
Hutchinson, Alfred	9
Hutchinson, Polly E.	6
Howland, Fred	13
Howland, Davis W.	7
Howland, Edgar	16*
Howe, Mable	16*
Harriman, Clarence	7
I	
J	
Josselyn, Ralph	14
Josselyn, Albert L.	13
Josselyn, Austin W.	8
Josselyn, Edgar C.	7
Josselyn, Joshua Everett	13
Josselyn, Harry M.	12
Josselyn, Crissie A.	10
Josselyn, Millie L.	8
Josselyn, Alice	17*
Joyce, Minnie E.	9
Johnson, Oscar	6
Johnson, Elmer E.	13
Johnson, Eliza B.	9
K	
Kiley, Chester W.	5
Keene, Mary C.	5
L	
Lane, Ernest W.	7
Lane, Ophir J.	5
Lewis, Lillie K.	13
Luther, Lucy A.	7
Luther, Grace G.	8
Leary, Julia A.	6

Name	Age
Leary, Thomas F.	12
Lowell, Samuel	8
Leavitt, Cora E.	14
Lyons, Edward	16*
Leonard, Joseph	12
Lewis, Jesse A.	12
M	
McGough, Lizzie	14
McGough, Mary S.	11
Magoun, Mary B.	7
Magoun, Charles R.	13
Moore, George F.	6
Munroe, Minnie W.	14
Munroe, Hattie F.	12
Miles, Lizzie D.	10
Miles, Edelbert W.	7
N	
Niles, Elisha F.	10
Niles, Susan M.	13
O	
Osbonne, Jennette	9
Osborne, Josephina	8
P	
Pool, Harry M.	7
Poole, Julia M	12
Poole, Annie L.	6
Pratt, Lucie E.	12
Pratt, Wallace T.	9
Pratt, Elmer F.	8
Pratt, Dana M.	5
Prouty, Mary L.	13
Prouty, Hattie E.	7
Perkins, Lillie C.	9
Perkins, Abbie	15*
Phillips, J. R. G.	8
Phillips, Tamar B.	14
Pendleton, Edward A.	6
Percival, Henry G.	10
Q	

NAMES AND AGES OF ALL PERSONS IN TOWN OF HANSON
May 1, 1875 to January 29, 1876 Between 5 and 15 years of Age
(those over 15 yrs. have an*)(Cont.)

Name	Age
R	
Reinhardt, Freddie R.	9
Reinhardt, Lucia	14
Reinhardt, Charles H.	12
Rand, Arthur	8
Rand, Otis E.	11
Rand, Fred D.	14
Read, Marcus A.	10
Read, Willie L.	7
Roberts, William	7
Roberts, Henry	6
Ramsdell, Otis W.	7
Ramsdell, Nellie A.	8
Robbins, Laura A.	6
Raymond, Barbara F.	8
S	
Silver, Mary	8
Silver, Isabel	11
Smith, Flora	13
Smith, Mary L.	6
Smith, Caroline A.	5
Smith, Effie A.	11
Smith, Mary L.	6
Stetson, Levi W.	7
Stetson, Mary J.	14
Stetson, Emma F.	13
Stetson, Everett N.	11
Stetson, Thomas F.	13
Sillon, William L.	10
Sillon, Fannie A.	8
Sweetser, Eva B.	7
Sweetser, Celia E.	5
Stevens, Lucia M.	7
Stevens, Willard E.	14
Stevens, Arthur	9
Soper, Hattie M	9
Shaw, Lillian S.	10
Sprague, Allie D.	6
T.	
Thomas, Addie M	13
Thomas, Bradford W.	11
Thomas, Sherman T.	10
Thomas, Lyman E.	13
Thomas, Wennie C.	9
Thomas, Frederic E.	6
Thomas, William C.	12
Thomas, Otis P.	8
Thomas, Cora M.	10
Thomas, George E.	10
Thomas, Lillie F.	14
Thomas, Georgianna W.	9
Thomas, Delia E.	6
Thomas, Nellie W.	14
Thompson, Marietta	8
Tolman, Angelia	11
Tollman, John F.	8
Tollman, Georgianna	6
Tillson, Grace E.	7
Tillson, Adella F.	6
Turner, Priscilla F.	8
Tarr, Susan M.	8
W	
Willis, George H.	5
Willis, Dennie R. G.	7
Willis, Charles P.	14
Willis, John F.	8
Willis, S. Edward	6
Willis, Emma J.	5
Willis, Harry B.	9
White, Addie F.	6
White, Sarah J.	12
White, Harry L.	6
White, Katie A.	7
White, Joseph B.	8
Willett, Annie M	8
Willett, Clayton S.	13
Whitten, Mary F.	9
Willett, Charles M.	13
Whitten, Lillian M.	6
Worthington, Alfred F.	5

Sources of Information:

Hanson Town Records: Hanson Town Hall

Pembroke Town Records: Pembroke Town Hall

Whitman Town Reports: Whitman Library

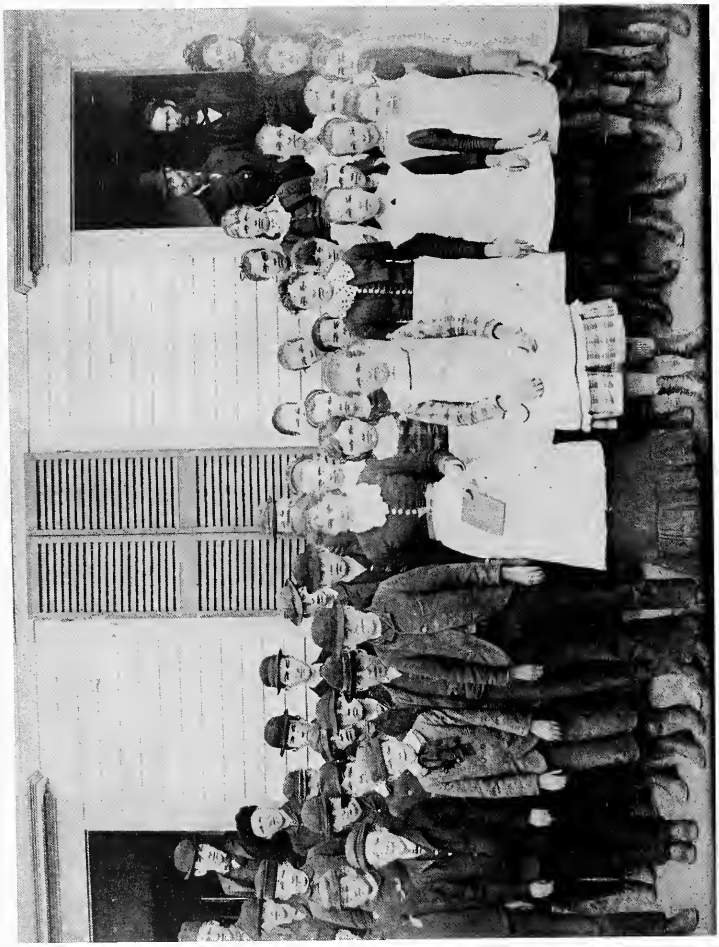
History of Plymouth County - D. Hamilton Hurd
Cobb Library

Records compiled by Mr. William W. Bryant, Cobb Library

Levi Z. Thomas

for whom L. Z. Thomas School was named

Early teacher and school committee member.



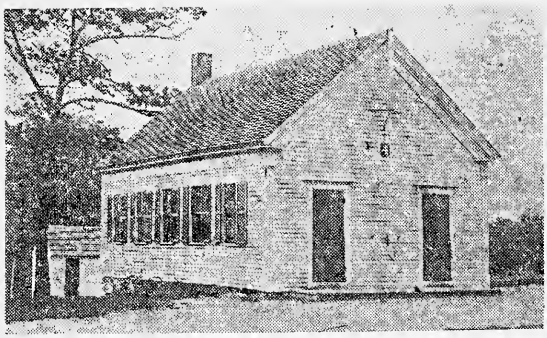
South Grammar School Class 1886

Lillie K. Lewis (teacher)

Committee in the doorway,
Levi G. Thomas (wearing hat)
George F. Simpson (bareheaded)
Clara Josselyn (right rear) First woman school committee member
Teacher,
Lillie Lewis (front center)

Some of the pupils as seen in the picture

Marion Spencer at right of teacher, Josie Chamberlain over Spencer's right shoulder, Ella Everson behind left shoulder of Chamberlain, Ella Keene to right of Chamberlain in same row, Annie Damon in front of Clara Josselyn, who is in doorway, and Charles Ford left of window wearing derby.



District School No. 4 - Built 1845 on Elm St.

moved to Main St. 1865

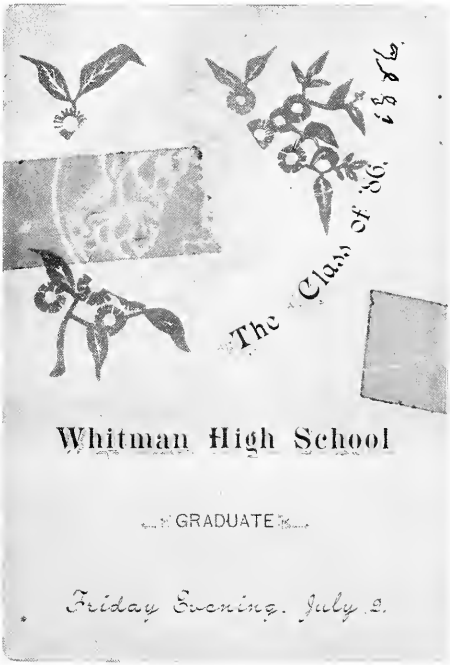
then moved to L. Z. Thomas lot 1939

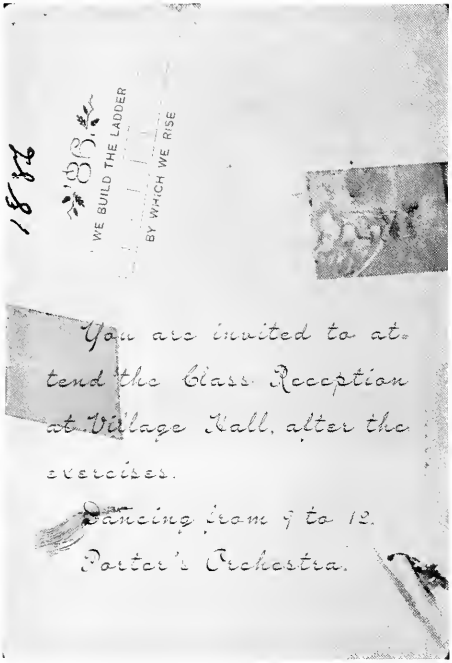
South Grammar School

Built in 1881 by Edward Pendleton

on the site of the Grange Hall

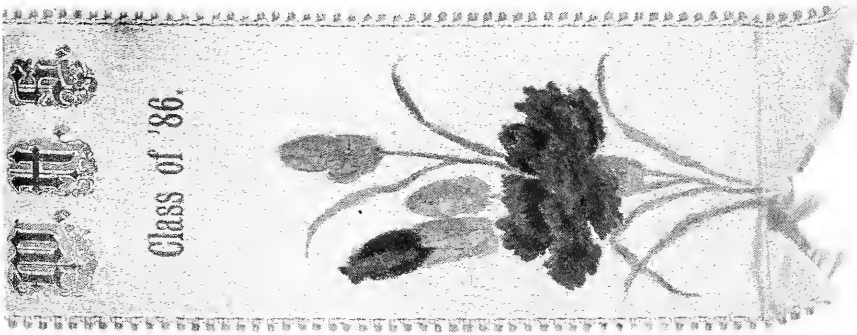
Moved in 1907 to Reed St. and became Primary No. 7





Invitation to Class Reception

First class to graduate from W. H. S. 1886



Class Ribbon 1886 Whitman High School

PROGRAMME.

WHITMAN HIGH SCHOOL.

GRADUATION.

FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 1, 1887.

TEACHERS:

HORACE E. HENDERSON, A. B., *Principal.*

MRS. HENRIETTA B. BLAKE, *Assistant.*

SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

L. B. HATCH, B. F. HASTINGS, HORACE REED.

Second class to graduate from

Whitman High School 1887

LECTURE.

MESSRS. A. W. EDSON and J. W. McDONALD,

Of the State Board of Education, will address the citizens of Hanson on

Educational Topics,

——IN——

TOWN HALL, HANSON,

——ON——

Tuesday Evening, June 6, '93,

AT 7.45 O'CLOCK.

THE PUBLIC IS EARNESTLY INVITED.

A free coach will run from Hanson Postoffice and Bryantville via High Street.

Under the auspices of the School Committee,

EVIE W. DREW, Secretary.

TIMES STEAM JOB PRINT, WHITMAN.

(Early Handbill)

Private School Circular

CIRCULAR

—OF—

Bryantville Institute

SOUTH HANSON, MASS.

THE FALL TERM OF THIS INSTITUTION

WILL BEGIN

Wednesday, September 6, 1865, and continue Eleven Weeks.

D. C. THOMPSON, ... PRINCIPAL.

TUITION:

Common English,	$5.00
Higher "	5.50
Languages,	6.50

Students entering before or leaving after the middle of the term will be charged full tuition.

THE FIRST TERM

OF THIS INSTITUTION, WILL OPEN IN

JOSSELYN'S HALL,

IN THE PLEASANT VILLAGE OF

Bryantville, South Hanson, Mass.

The Principal hopes, by a thorough and comprehensive course of instruction, to render the school permanent and successful. A limited number of classes will be formed, the students being allowed to select from the following list of studies: —

COMMON ENGLISH.

English Grammar,	Green
Geography,	Cornell or Warren
Arithmetic (Common School),	Greenleaf or Eaton
History (United States),	Quackenbos
Algebra (Elementary),	Robinson
Physiology and Hygiene,	Comings and Cutter
Book-Keeping (Single Entry),	Crittenden

HIGHER ENGLISH.

Arithmetic (Higher),	Greenleaf or Eaton
Algebra (Advanced),	Robinson or Peirce
Geometry,	Peirce
Trigonometry,	"
Surveying and Navigation,	Loomis or Peirce
Book-Keeping (Double Entry),	Crittenden
Chemistry,	Stockbardt
Philosophy,	Quackenbos
Botany,	Gray
Rhetoric,	Qackenbos
History (General),	Willson or Worcester

C H U R C H E S

THE FIRST CHURCH IN HANSON (CONGREGATIONAL)

In every village and town in Massachusetts and most of New England, one common landmark is outstanding; a little white church, often on a hillside surrounded by trees and lawns, beautiful in its dignified simplicity, which stands as a monument to the little village and town, born in and around it. In the ancient nearby "burying ground" rest its brave and faithful founders.

Such was the beginning of "the little white church on a hilltop crest, with ancient pews and a spire" - the First Congregational Church in Hanson. It was still almost a wilderness in 1746 when a small group of people began to build a Meeting House on what we now call Bonney Hill. The few streets were only cart paths, or footpaths trod out by Indians. The tall pine and oak trees were just beginning to be cut for use as lumber, so that scattered homes and farms were springing up.

This settlement was in the western part of Pembroke and was then called "Tunk". As its people were eager for more convenient church and school privileges, a Parish was organized, to maingain the Meeting House, to choose and pay for a preacher, and all other expenses pertaining to its support. Each family in the parish was to be taxed for this purpose.

The first Parish meeting was held March 3, 1746. Mr. Edward Thomas was chosen clerk and served in that capacity for

thirty-six years. It is believed these first meetings were held in the home of Mr. Elijah Cushing whose home on Washington St., Cushing's Corner, is still occupied, and beautifully preserved.

At one of these early meetings, it was voted to start building a meeting house and to draw up a petition addressed to "His Excellency, William Shirley, Governor in and over the province of Massachusetts, and to the Honorable Council, and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, praying that they the inhabitants of the towns of Pembroke, Bridgewater, Abington, Halifax and Hanover, do of God in the Towns in which they belong, by reason of the distance from the respective places of worship." In order to remove this difficulty they "have erected a new Meeting House in the center of the territory, they desire to incorporate into a district, township, or precinct." And they state that "there is a sufficient number of inhabitants settled in the district of sufficient ability to maintain the Gospel amongst them, as they apprehend, and also sufficient number remaining in the towns from which they desire to be set off to maintain the Gospel amongst them, that they may enjoy like privileges with other towns, and they and their families may attend upon the public worship of God which otherwise they cannot conveniently do."

As early as June 10, 1746 it was acted upon, and the territory was set off as the West Parish of Pembroke. There is only a brief record of the first parish meeting, September 4,

1746, after the district had been set off and this records the following officers selected:

"Voted Edward Thomas, Clerk

Voted Elijah Cushing, Solomon Beals, Joshua Pierce to be assessors for a year

Voted Josiah Cushing, treasurer

Voted Nicholas Webster, collector

Voted to raise fifty-two pounds of the last emission to support public worship in said precinct.

Signed Edward Thomas,
Clerk"

The West Meeting House, as it was frequently called in the parish records, was not an example of Colonial architecture. It was a square barn-like structure, modeled after the Pembroke building. It had a double row of windows around it, and probably a porch extended along the front, with two entrance doors, one for the men and one for the women. Only wooden benches were used at first, the men sitting on one side of the room, the women on the other.

Almost the earliest business of the parish, after providing for the preaching of the Word of God, was to sell space for pews. This was done by auction, the best space going to the highest bidder. A Mr. Thomas Moore who operated a mill in the western part of the parish, a man identified for many years in the church records, was the highest bidder for the best place at this time.

The First Church in Hanson (Congregational)(Cont.)

According to tradition square pews were built at the convenience of the bidders, on either side of the broad aisle. For ornamentation, there was a row of spindles around the top, capped by a moulding. These were a delight to the children who soon discovered the spindles would turn by hand, and the fun was greatly increased when it was found that some of them even squeaked! These could be worked at appropriate times during the long sermons.

An agreement was made with Pembroke that every third Town Meeting should be held in the new meeting house, and this arrangement was carried out until the Town was incorporated in 1820.

The Rev. Daniel Lewis of the mother church in Pembroke officiated at the formal service of Institution of the second church in Pembroke on the 31st day of August, 1748. Thirty-two persons were united in the compact, fourteen male and eighteen female.

The names of these original members will be of interest, as they were ancestors of some of you who read this:

Josiah Foster	David Hersey
James Bearse	Elizabeth Hersey
Mary Bearse	Richard Hill
Abiah Bisbee	Ann Howland
Elizabeth Bisbee	Samuel Howland
Joshua Bisbee, Jr.	Sarah Howland
Ruth Bisbee	Sarah Howlnd II
Priscilla Bourne	Joshua Pratt
Deborah Briggs	Doratha Ramsdell
Nathaniel Chamberlain	Martha Ramsdell
Sarah Chamberlain	Mary Ramsdell
William Cole	Samuel Ramsdell, Jr.
Mary Cox	Richard Telley

Edward Thomas	M. Webster
Rachel Thomas	Ruth Cushing
Content Webster	Daniel Hayford

The choice of a pastor for the new society was undertaken with great care. A day of fasting and prayer was voted for the 24th day of September. The following February, after the advice of their neighboring ministers, the Rev. Gad Hitchcock was extended a call to settle in the work of the ministry and was ordained here.

The choice of Mr. Hitchcock as pastor was a wise one. He was a man of exceptional ability. His was a strong character, patriotic, fearless in the denunciation of wrong, yet genial and hospitable, a pastor who won the love and respect of his people and who served them faithfully and successfully for fifty-five years.

Rev. Mr. Hitchcock was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, February 22, 1719. He graduated from Harvard College in 1743 and was honored with the degree of D.D. in 1787. He married Dorothy Angier of Cambridge. They had one child, a son born in Hanson in 1749, who was named for his father. The son also graduated from Harvard, where he studied medicine and settled in the parish, as the first physician. He was a member of his father's church and active in its affairs.

The Rev. Gad Hitchcock was not only good, but great. He was widely known and distinguished for his excellent qualities.

In those days, the great ministers did not rush away to the cities as now, for a larger field. This minister of a little country church, was great enough to be chosen from all the ministers in Massachusetts to preach the Election Sermon before Governor Gage and the House of Representatives, May 25, 1774. Neither the hostility of the Governor nor the approval of Samuel Adams could draw him away from his duties as the pastor of Christ's Church in the West Parish of Pembroke.

Through the long years of the Revolutionary War in which he served as chaplain, through the trying years before the Constitution was formed, and through the administrations of Washington and Adams, he went his steady round of visiting the sick, instructing the children and shepherding the whole flock until old age and sickness stayed his willing hands. His death occurred August 3, 1803. He lies at rest in the old burying ground back of Fern Hill Cemetery. Rev. Gad Hitchcock received 121 persons into membership, and 861 baptisms are recorded.

Amond the list of members are the names of Eleazer Hamlin who united by profession of faith February 21, 1762 and his wife Lydia who joined five years earlier. Twelve of their children were baptized by Rev. Hitchcock including the so called "four continents, " - Asia, Europe, Africa and America. Also the twins, Hannibal and Cyrus, were baptized in August 1769. Cyrus was the grandfather of Vice President Hannibal Hamlin, who served with President Lincoln. The other twin

Hannibal, was grandfather of Dr. Cyrus Hamlin, missionary to Turkey, who founded Roberts College, the first in Turkey.

Rev. Hitchcock baptized and received into membership many of the colored slaves. He and his doctor-son and family, lived in the house at the corner of High Street and County Road, now owned and occupied by Mr. & Mrs. William Walkey. This was Hanson's first parsonage.

In 1797 increased attendance made it necessary to enlarge the meeting house. It was therefore voted that the building be sawed asunder and fourteen feet be put in. In 1803 extensive repairs were made and a bell weighing 550 pounds was purchased and hung in the belfry and for the first time the ringing of a bell was heard over the hills and fields of the town, calling its people to worship. Five years later the bell was exchanged for one weighing 900 pounds. It is to be wondered if the louder call brought a greater response.

The second minister Rev. George Barstow was ordained January 6, 1803. He was a graduate of Brown University in 1801, having a high and respectable standing in his class. He studied for the ministry with Rev. Perry Forbes of Raynham. Rev. Barstow built and occupied the large house now known as Gordon Rest, residing there until his death, which occurred suddenly on February 11, 1826.

The First Church in Hanson (Congregational)(Cont.)

In the twenty-three years of his ministry, 41 persons were received into membership and 154 baptized. He is spoken of as being polite and graceful in manner and of a fine appearance. He had one son who died young and three daughters, who, with his wife, were much esteemed, being leaders in local society and of great help to him in his work.

During the Rev. Barstow's stay, the first Sunday School was started in 1817 or 1818, meeting in his home at first, and then in a school house near the site of the Indian Head School. It did not meet with complete approval at first but was continued during the spring and summer months.

February 22, 1820, the Town of Hanson was incorporated. The meeting house was used for town business until 1831, when by vote of the parish it was discontinued. Until the incorporation of the town, the church had been maintained by taxation. This was now terminated, and the support of the church was sustained by subscription.

The next pastor was the Rev. Freeman Howland, born in Sandwich on September 3, 1797, the seventh generation from John Howland who came over on the Mayflower in 1620. Rev. Howland was with the first class to graduate from Amherst College in 1824. After two years of theological study with Dr. Hitchcock of Randolph, he was ordained pastor of this church in 1826. Mr. Howland was an early advocate of temperance, and discouraged any use of the so-called "ardent spirits" so prevalent in those

days. There were several cases of discipline during his ministry. One case involved a man who stayed away from church services. When interviewed regarding his absence, he said he would not go to church because Rev. Mr. Howland was a Mason. The pastor called on him in an attempt to remove the objection, but without success. He therefore was dismissed from the fold.

The controversy on baptism by immersion was given much attention at this time and some members withdrew from this church to join the Baptist church, then being organized. A few who did not agree with "close communion" united with this church.

Owing to months of inability to preach because of bronchial trouble, he felt obliged to relinquish his charge, asking to be dismissed, which took place December 1834. He continued to live in Hanson on West Washington Street and for many years served the society as clerk and Superintendent of Sunday School.

The next minister was Rev. John Shaw who served from 1834 to 1838. He was born in Abington and graduated from Brown University in 1805. He died in Dighton of fever in 1844.

February 13, 1836, the following committee was appointed to get plans for a new meeting house: George F. Stetson, Philip Brewster, Noah Bonney, Joshua Smith, William Bourne, Nathaniel Cushing, David Barker and Capt. Herman Sopher.

The First Church in Hanson (Congregational)(Cont.)

The old building was appraised for $190.00 Julius Josselyn purchased a part of it, probably the porch and it was used by him for a time as a shoemaker's shop. He later moved it to Brant Rock and it was destroyed in the storm of 1898. Isaac Thomas bought a portion of it also and moved it to the east of his house and it was the home of Mrs. Anderson for many years. Portions of this building are now in use on what was formerly the Thomas estate. John Tolman, who built the house on Liberty Street where Mrs. Margaret Horton now lives, bought the remainder of the building and either moved it near his house and remodeled it into a barn or else bought the lumber when the meeting house was taken down, and built his barn therefrom. An aged resident recalled that Mr. Tolman used the square pews as a fence from his farn to the street. Such is the story of the old West meeting house.

The new building, the present one, was dedicated December 14, 1836. The dedicatory sermon was given by Rev. Mr. Gay of Bridgewater and the prayer by Rev. Mr. Hitchcock of Randolph. Deacon George F. Stetson furnished an organ for the service, and afterward built one for the church for which he was paid $100.00. The expense of the new building was $3113,26. The pews sold for $3597.97.

Rev. Samuel L. Rockwood was next ordained on March 11, 1840. After 18 years of service, he resigned his pastorate. While residing in North Weymouth he supplied the pulpit again

from 1871 to 1877, his combined service being twenty-four years, the longest of any pastor except Dr. Hitchcock. Rev. Mr. Rockwood was born in Sherborn, he was graduated from Amherst college in 1836 and from Andover in 1839.

Lamps were placed in the meeting house in 1841. A sum of money was appropriated, not to exceed $1,000. in June 1847 for the purpose of erecting a parsonage house and barn on a plan acceptable to Mr. Rockwood. Thanks were voted to Mr. Isaac Thomas for three-quarters of an acre of land for the parsonage lot. This building is the house now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Harley on High Street.

In 1867 it was voted to let the ladies have the old organ repaired, or buy a new one. The latter plan was followed and funds were raised by holding socials in the homes of members. The organ purchased is said to have cost $800.00.

The first women's organization of the church, the Ladies Aid, is said to have formed at this time.

The Rev. Isaac P. Langworthy, D.D. of Chelsea, supplied the pulpit from October 1882 to February 1883. He proved to be the man for the time and place. With God's blessing and his work, twenty-two person were united with the church on confession of faith. This marked a new era in the spirit of the church. The infusion of new and young life was an encouragement to those who carried the service and burdens for many years.

Rev. George Benedict, Rev. Alexander Childs, Rev. Adoniran Leach followed as pastors.

Rev. Charles S. Bates took up the work as pastor in June 1896. He gave a great deal of time and thought to the young people, encouraging them to take part in church responsibilities. Among other activities the boys published a weekly paper named "The Bode" giving the church calendar, and news items of the parish. A fifteen year old boy, Wesley F. Severance was editor.

Fifty years later, in 1948, Mr. Severance, a prominent business man of Hanover brought out a special edition of "The Bode" and also presented to the church his whole edition of the paper as printed in 1898.

August 31, 1898, the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the church was celebrated in a fitting manner. The committee appointed included Deacon Isaac Howland, Josiah Bonney, Miss Eliza F. Thomas, Mrs. Cornelia Cook from the church and Josiah Cook, J. Bartlett White, Gibson Beals, Mrs. Joseph White, Abbie G. Clark from the Parish.

Three services were held on the anniversary day. At the morning service after an address of welcome by the pastor, a history of the Sunday School was read by Mrs. Mailinda Carr. This report will be found following the church history.

The First Church in Hanson (Congregational)(Cont.)

Deacon Isaac Howland read the history of one hundred and fifty years of the church. Mr. George E. Thomas gave a history of the parish. Rev. George Benedict, a former pastor, gave a short address. Rev. W. S. Fritch of Abington gave the principal address, speaking on what the church stands for.

A committee had prepared a fine dinner for over 300 guests.

The evening service consisted of an anthem by a quartette, composed of Miss Josie M. Chamberlain, Mrs. J. B. White, and Messrs. Walter Calder and Luke Hammenway, Mrs. Calder presiding at the organ.

Rev. A. H. Plumb, D.D. of Roxbury gave the address. The service closed with singing and the benediction by Dr. Plumb.

The Rev. Roland D. Sawyer began his pastorate here in August 1900. He had been ordained just a few months before at the South Congregational Church in Brockton. He was a graduate of Revere Lay College and studied at Boston University School of Theology.

He was very active in the affairs of the parish and community, taking special interest in political matters. Since he removed from Hanson, he has served as pastor at Ware, Massachusetts and has been in the House of Representatives for several years. His resignation took effect in November 1904.

The First Church in Hanson (Congregational)(Cont.)

Rev. Robert A. Bryant, a Presbyterian by denomination, became pastor in December 1912. The church showed considerable gains during this period under his leadership and that of his gifted family.

November 13, 1913 the church was Incorporated as the First Congregational Church in Hanson. January 7, 1914 the parish voted to disband.

The Rev. Scott Siegal, a student at Boston University began his duties with the church April 16, 1916. He was a native of Kansas. He was very successful in his work here, but closed his firstterm here to enlist in the service of the country in 1918. He was with the YMCA until the close of World War I. He came back to take up the combined work of Hanson and Halifax churches in December 1922, and continued until August 1928 when he removed to a church in Westminster, Massachusetts.

Rev. Wilbur H. Fowler, a student at the School of Theology at Boston University came to the church in February 1921 and remained until his graduation in 1922. Both Mr. and Mrs. Fowler were popular and did much to build up the church. The first "Every Member Canvas" was held during this period with excellent results.

The old parsonage was sold and a lot was purchased opposite the meeting house and the present parsonage started. Two

new furnaces were installed in the church and vestry, and electric lights were put in. The new parsonage was completed when Mr. Siegal returned for his second term. The report of the cost of the building amounted to $5879.71.

May 3, 1923 it was voted to restore the old pulpit and furnishings and to fix up the interior generally. This was carried out with the combined efforts of the church, the various women's societies and friends. The Men's Club started a movement which resulted in reshingling the roofs, while the ladies had the organ repaired. After repainting the outside of the building and regrading the grounds, the church was re-opened with observances and fitting exercises for the 175th anniversary December 1 and 2, 1923.

January 1, 1929, Rev. Warren A. Leonard began the work in Hanson, coming from the Riverpoint Church in West Warwick, Rhode Island. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard devoted themselves to work among the young people, thus building up the church school. The officers and teachers were organized for study of the Bible and teaching methods.

Soon the need for larger quarters brought about plans for a new parish house, with more room for classes, a larger auditorium with stage, a ladies' parlor and a new kitchen. Early in 1935 the ground was broken for the new addition, and by Sunday, January 19, 1936, it was completed and formally dedicated.

The First Church in Hanson (Congregational)(Cont.)

The cost of the building and furnishings was about $12,000. This was made possible by the gift of Oakland Hall by Deacon George W. Severance and other stockholders, which was torn down and the lumber used for the frame work. Other very generous gifts were made by friends of the church and the united efforts of the church members and organizations.

Rev. Vernon F. Bevan came as pastor in 1939. He was a graduate of Gordon College. He was a man of high ideals and an able speaker. He served two years.

In 1942 Rev. Harold S. Winship came to Hanson. He was a graduate of Datmouth College, and Hartford Theological Seminary. He served for about six years.

In 1948 the two hundredth anniversary of the founding of the church was celebrated. During the year several features portraying interesting historic facts took place. In February a Foregathers Supper was held, with the sale of 200 birthday candles.

On a Sunday in May a large group, dressed in costumes of their ancestors walked to morning worship through meeting house lane, as was the custom long ago. In August there were three special anniversary worship services. Sunday August 15th was designated The Church of Yesterday (Historical Sunday) at the eleven o'clock service. Rev. Edwin Gibson, pastor of the First Parish Congregational Church of Brockton preached the sermon. His subject was "They Kept The Faith". At the

afternoon service, the history of the church was given under the subject "Through the Years in Song and Story". Special music was rendered by a women's chorus, also by a men's chorus. At 4:15 adjourment was made to the old burying ground back of Fern Hill Cemetery, where with fitting ceremony a tablet was unveiled on Rev. Gad Hitchcock's grave by one of his descendants. August 22nd - with the subject "The Church of Today" the Rev. Vernon F. Bevan, pastor from 1939 to 1942 preached the sermon, entitled "Alternative to Futility", his text II Timothy 1:1-12.

August 29th, "The Church of Tomorrow" was in charge of the young people. Rev. Scott Siegal who was pastor from 1916 - 1918 and 1922 - 1928 preached on the subject "The Church of Tomorrow", his text the 84th Psalm.

A colonial tea was held Tuesday, August 17th at the Gad Hitchcock house, the first parsonage, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Walkey. Tuesday, August 24th at eight in the evening, a Pioneer Woman's Day was observed honoring the Foremothers of town and church. Every woman's organization of Hanson and neighboring towns was represented in a candle lighting service. The Community Singers gave special music and the speaker of the evening was Mrs. Lois Grant Palches, who took for her subject "Pioneer - New Style". An historical pageant in six episodes entitled "They Kept the Faith" was given Sunday evening. August 31st the anniversary banquet

was held after which there were three one-minute-"I-Remember"-speeches.

In 1949, Rev. Winship resigned, and Rev. Karl Ostberg accepted the call to become pastor of the church. He was a popular minister, ever cheerful and ready to help his people. He resigned in 1951 to take a pastorate in Connecticut.

For a number of years, all over the United States, the merger of the Reformed Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Congregational Christian Churches, to be known as the United Church of Christ in America, was sought. It was debated in the Hanson church many times. In 1951 this church declared its intention to continue as a free, autonomous Congregational Christian church.

A new Estey pipe organ with electric console was purchased in 1951 and established in the sanctuary.

The Rev. Robert H. Heigham became the pastor in 1951. He was born in Brighton, Massachusetts; he graduated from Boston University and Andover-Newton Theological College. He married Ruby Doane in 1942 and they have one daughter, Beverly. Under his earnest Christian leadership the church has made much progress. The church school has more than doubled, having an enrollment of 314, with 54 in Mr. Heigham's high school class alone. In his nine years as pastor, 290 have been admitted into fellowship of the church.

Much of his success is due to the fact that he is actively associated with the administrative committees of the church, such as the Trustees, Advisory Board, Religious Education and Missionary Committees in service and as consultant.

A few years ago he began the early morning worship services during the summer, which are always well attended.

In ministering to the sick and needy, he is outstandingly faithful. In the year just ending (1960) 117 hospital calls were made to ten hospitals, making trips to and from Boston, Quincy, Weymouth, Brockton, Stoughton and Plymouth, also to many nursing homes wherever elderly and infirm people needed him.

He is Protestant Chaplain at the Plymouth County Hospital making weekly calls and conducting worship services, and he ably represents the church in many other community activities.

In 1955, a committee was appointed to have plans drawn up for a much needed addition. In 1956 work was started on an addition 30 feet by 60 feet with class rooms, study, ladies' parlor, auditorium and stage, basement dining room seating over 240, and a modern kitchen, well equipped to supply food for as many people.

In 1958, the new Parish Hall was completed at a cost of over $43,000. Due to the fine cooperation of the church

members, and the various organizations and to the generosity of the people of Hanson, at the Dedication Service on November 26, 1958 all bills were paid and the mortgage burned.

This is the record of the First Congregational Church in Hanson. Many items of interest may have been omitted, and the many, many names of those who kept the faith would fill another book. But may it be hoped that the record of this old meeting house, hallowed by the sacrifices, sorrows and joys of generations, may be a bulwark of Christian love and service in this community for many years to come.

HANSON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SCHOOL

A report of the Sunday School of the Hanson Congregational Church was read by Miss Malinda Carr, then superintendant, at the 150th Anniversary of the church in 1898. Her sketch states that while there were few records available, there were those living at that time whose connections and recollections were very reliable and helpful in the writing of her report.

In 1898, there was one person still living who had been a pupil in the first Sunday School, Mrs. Katherine Phillips of Hanover, who was great-granddaughter of the first minister Rev. Gad Hitchcock. In the early 1800's Sunday Schools had been organized in England, and to the ministers here it seemed a beneficial program for the churches, but did not meet with much approval among New Englanders. It was too soon after the War of 1812 to think anything good could come out of England. There is a tradition in one Hanson family that a boy who sneaked off to attend a session of the unpopular school was threatened that his new Sunday suit would be taken away from him if he went again. However, the Sunday School, started by Parson Barstow in 1817 or 1818 in a school house near his home, now Gordon Rest, continued, its session held at five o'clock in the afternoon from May until about November. At this time there were no schools in the winter. In 1822 the school was transferred to the church, being held between the morning and afternoon services. This did not continue for long, the report says, because the singers wanted to practice their music at that time,

and the tones of the big bass viol so filled the meeting house, that it interferred with hearing the lessons, so the school was closed, to begin again when the Rev. Howland became pastor.

Deacon Oliver Whitten kept the records, and probably filled the place of superintendant though that title was not them in use. Some of the early teachers were Miss Lucia Smith, daughter of Joseph Smith of privateer fame; Miss Betsy Hitchcock, granddaughter of the Rev. Gad Hitchcock; and Miss Rachel Cushing of the Elijah Cushing family who lived in the old Cushing house.

For lessons they studied the Bible, the Catechism and memorized the hymns. Some of the pupils were ambitious to get long lessons. For example, Katherine Tilden (later Mrs. Phillips) and Angeline Whitten, the deacon's granddaughter, when about twelve years old tried to see which could excel in the number of verses learned. Katherine Tilden committed to memory the whole of the Gospel of Matthew in one season. Her friend must have done well, too, for each received a book for a reward.

In 1841 the number of pupils was 77, the average attendance 53. There were twelve classes. By this time, question books were in use as a notation reads "Sept. 19 finished Newcomb's First Question Book."

April 17, 1842 the Sunday School opened with 50 scholars. In 1846 it commenced the season with an attendance of 56. The Rev. Rockwood promised a new Testament to all who could recite

the Assembly Catechism. There is no record of how many accomplished the task.

In 1848 records show that while the usual attendance at the church worship service was about 175, the number in the school was only 70. Whether antagonism toward children's services still continued, or whether long services both morning and afternoon left little time to prepare children for another meeting, we do not know.

Between 1860 and 1870, when Mr. Allen Leach was superintendant, the school increased. He was an able man, and usually had a practical thought to give the school at the close of the session. He encouraged attendance, and announced one Sunday with delight and pride that 100 scholars were present that day. There were two unusually large classes of young people at this time, a class of girls taught by Mrs. Alonzo Colton, and one of boys taught by Mrs. Theodore Cobb.

Mrs. Southworth, the pastor's wife, was very active in the Sunday School, interesting the young members in concerts, having them meet at her home to practice singing.

In 1866 the first Christmas Festival, with a Christmas tree was held in the church.

In 1883, the new chapel was ready for classes, and during the next four years, the average attendance was 62. In the mean time, International Lessons were adopted, and a library

was started. Rev. A. J. Leach was superintendant at this time.

In 1896 Miss Carr took over the work, assisted by Miss Lillie Thomas. Miss Carr, a teacher by training, was a conscientious and devoted superintendant. She encouraged the children to feel a responsibility toward their church, was always ready to give help wherever needed, and was loved and respected by the whole community. For the 150th Anniversary Service, with the assistance of Miss Josie Estes, she prepared a pageant, "The Children's Convention," which was given by the children, and very well received.

The enrollment of the schoolwas 80 pupils, and there were eight classes. A Home Department was organized with about 32 members.

Mr. Francis Clemons was a much beloved superintendant during the 1920 and 30's. The Cradle Roll, kindergarten and primary ages, was emphasized as he believed that if they were registered young, they would always feel they belonged.

Bibles were given to every child graduating from the primary to the junior department, and one of the most popular exercises was called a "Bible Sword Drill" Mr. Clemons called out a text, and recognizing the first child to find it. In this way, the books of the Bible were learned.

The officers and teachers were organized for study of the Bible and methodsof teaching, 21 attending teachers' traning

classed in Brockton for eight weeks. During this time the Maids and Matrons sponsored a bus to cover the 16 miles of Hanson roads to bring children to the school. This proved very successful, and today four buses are in use.

As the church school increased, a religious education committee was elected by the church to supervise the course of studies to be used in the school, suggest programs for teacher training, and encourage the older pupils to prepare for teaching.

The children have been generous in sharing with others, at home and abroad. Their Lenten offering was sent to provide Bibles for the widely scattered people in Alaska one year. Each Thanksgiving both food and money is taken to the Home for Little Wanderers in Boston.

For over twenty yearsmoney has been collected and sent for the support and education of two orphan children in China or India. Letters of appreciation have been received from many of them. The offering from the 1960 Lenten boxes were toward a fund from our church to the Congregational Christian College in Anatolia, Greece.

Thus the Hanson Congregational Church School has carried on for over 142 years, meeting the needs of the young, preparing them to meet the needs of the world, teaching them that righteousness is fundamental to all good living.

Miss Carr ended her sketch, more than sixty years ago, with this observation: "In looking over the list of church members, I find, with scarcely an exception, that in the years previous to uniting with the church, they were attendants at the Sunday School, showing there is a close connection between church and school, and we may feel that the work of the school has not been fruitless."

This is as true today. Let us hope that the achievements of the past will inspire the present generation to go on to even greater service.

SOUTH HANSON BAPTIST CHURCH

In 1712, Pembroke became a separate town and at once formed itself into a parish, for the civil and religious unit were then almost indistinguishable.

What is now Hanson was then almost entirely an unsettled region except for a single large estate of some 1200 or 1500 acres near the present town hall when then belonged to the Thomas family and except also for a few scattered houses, principally along what we call Indian Head Street.

Consequently the first church in Pembroke served for a time every religious need of the community and the ministrations of the Reverend Daniel Lewis met with general approbation.

Soon after the incorporation of Pembroke a steady stream of immigration set in towards Hanson.

They came in from all the surrounding towns, from Scituate, Abington, Bridgewater, the older part of Pembroke, and from Duxbury and Marshfield. They brought with them a traditional loyalty to the church as an organization.

As most of the immigration was towards the northern, the southern and central portions of what is now Hanson, the inconvenience of attending at so distant a meeting house as that at Centre Pembroke became intolerable and the Congregations Church on Bonney Hill was organized. Here

for another fifty years our fathers worshipped.

In the first two decades of the nineteenth century the condition of affairs in neighboring towns bred a deep feeling of religious discontent, so that the time was ripe for a religious revolution..

Many churches remained orthodox, but there was a good nucleus for the formation of a Baptist Church.

The immediate impulse which led to the organization was, however, the preaching of two young men, neither of whom had yet been ordained, Thomas Conant and Aaron Perkins.

They presented a complete contrast in personal appearance. "Father" Conant as he came to be known in his later years, was a short slight man of a mild blue eye and a benignant aspect.

Doctor Perkins was a tall, broad-shouldered noble looking man of distinguished manner.

Never was the contrast less in the work in life they were called upon to perform. Mr. Conant found his work close by his hand. Born in Middleboro, he preached and labored in Marshfield, Hanover, Hanson, and on Cape Cod.

Dr. Perkins occupied the high places in the denomination and attracted large audiences by his brilliance.

SOUTH HANSON BAPTIST CHURCH (Cont.)

It was in the summer of 1811 that Thomas Conant began holding services in what is now Bryantville, especially at the home of Micah Foster, afterwards Deacon of the Church.

During the succeeding winter no regular Sunday services were held, but on week days and once a month on Sundays the people gathered in private houses to listen to the preaching of these two men.

A Baptist Society was organized October 5, 1811. The Society chose Elder Joel Briggs to be its teacher and set itself to work to build a meeting house.

The actual work of building seems to have begun in the later summer of 1812, but it progressed slowly and it was more than two years before the house was finished. It was a small and plain structure, situated near the present Methodist Church, on the west side of the street. It has been enlarged, and now forms part of the residence of Mr. Greenleaf Kilbreth.

Only a few years passed before it was evident that a larger house was needed. In April, 1820, the Society voted to build. The building was erected, (the present church building on Main Street) and was dedicated November 16th of the same year.

When first built, it was a plain, barn-like structure, without steeple, tower, or bell. It had galleries on three sides, two rows of windows, a high pulpit, and in other things

conformed to the style of 1700.

Elder Torrey was the first pastor and remained pastor up to the end of the year 1825. It is interesting to note that although the modern temperance movement had hardly begun, the church voted that no spiritous liquor shall be sold near or round the church on ordination day. This, together with the decided stand it took against slavery and slaveholders, as early as 1844, proves this church has been more than up to date in favor of moral reforms.

Under the leadership of Brother Bronson (Asa Bronson) the church edifice was repaired, a tower and steeple added and a bell placed in the tower. Thus the house (1850) put on its present outward appearance, vastly improved from the barnlike structure it was at first.

During the next ten years there was apparent success in winning souls. There were a goodly number of converts and additions to the church. However, the energies of the brotherhood were largely spent in discipline. No less than fifteen were put under discipline at one time, and others at other times.

Brother Hutchinson's influence (1858-61) introduced a change in methods of discipline. His judgment was not to exclude members who sustained a good moral character, and that seems to have been the usual sentiment of the church

since. Unworthy members have been excluded, members who for a long time have not walked with it, have been dropped, but petty grievances and minor delinquencies have not been magnified into undue importance, as was so common in the earlier history of the church.

In 1867 under the pastorate of Brother Watson, measures were taken to possess a parsonage. Money was raised for this purpose by subscription, by entertainment, and by other means. In due time a parsonage on Pleasant Street was purchased and paid for.

The church for several pastorates had paid a salary of $600.00 and the parsonage; the extra donations raising the compensation of the pastor to about $800.00 a year.

In the financial stress that now (1873) came upon the community, the committee were unable to raise the usual amount. It was then that Brother Albert S. Barker offered to make up the deficiency, whatever it might be. It proved to be $300.00 a year, and that amount he paid every year through the next five years.

In 1875 Mrs. Rosella Cobb offered to pay half the expenses of building a chapel if the other half could be raised. The ladies of the church and congregation were not long in raising the other half. It was completed this year, and the next year it was furnished and put to use.

SOUTH HANSON BAPTIST CHURCH (Cont.)

In 1890 a pipe organ "of fine tone" was purchased and given to the church by an unidentified benefactor. This instrument sent forth its music for 62 years, and was not replaced until the fall of 1952 when Mr. Wesley Vokey and Mr. James Converse purchased a fine electric organ.

At a church meeting in October 1902, it was decided to build a baptistry under the pulpit in the church; prior to that time, new members were "buried with Christ at the pier" in nearby Indian Head Pond and Little Sandy Pond. These immersions took place sometimes as late as mid-November and as early as March.

The original pews in the church were removed in 1911 and new ones installed. It is interesting to note that the deed to pew No. 36 was sold to the great-grandfather of Mary Rich for $10.00.

Through the generous gift of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Sampson, the vestry was enlarged in 1912 and the kitchen and woodshed built. Since that time the addition of electric lights, central heating, and the laying of an oak floor in the main church building have kept the old building up to date.

A severe thunderstorm in the summer of 1951 destroyed the old steeple, but the church was not long without a steeple, for members and friends rallied to raise funds for repairing the damage and the new steeple was completed the same fall.

SOUTH HANSON BAPTIST CHURCH (Cont.)

In the spring of 1952, it was decided that an addition to the church building was needed to care for the needs of the fast expanding Sunday School program. Under the leadership of Rev. L. Stanley Manierre and the engineering skill of Mr. Frank Roach, the new building was planned, the basement excavated, and the foundation poured, during the fall season of the same year. Now, thanks to the many friends and members of the Hanson Baptist Church, Fellowship Hall is completed and in use.

September 1960 papers were passed for the Chandler property consisting of all the land and the cottage in back of the church.

Sources of Information:

Historical Sketch of the South Hanson Baptist Church by Rev. Joseph B. Read (Dec. 4, 1900)
Historical Sketch of the First Baptist Church of Hanson by A. H. Slaney (1960)
Hanson Old Home Week Committee booklet 1902
Records printed for the town by Geo.Edward Lewis 1912

UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

The law which imposed taxation upon individuals for church support was considered by many to be unjust. A feeling of resistance led a few of the parish to propose holding meetings and supporting them by voluntary contributions. A receipt for such payment answered the demands of the law.

Accordingly a society was organized which held meetings at the houses of some of its members. Prominent among them were Dr. Samuel Barker, Cornelius Cobb, Dr. Calvin Tilden, Charles Josselym, Jabez Josselyn, and Oren Josselyn.

Preaching was supplied by Benjamin Whittmore, Joshua Flagg, Rev. Hosea Ballou and others. In 1829 a church was built at the junction of roads, Willow and Short Streets. A preacher, Elmer Hewitt, was installed as preacher, and remained in office ten years.

As the older members died and numbers decreased the society ceased to hold meetings.

For a time the church was used by the Spiritualists for meetings.

In 1866 the building was remodeled for hall purposes, and called Unity Hall. It remained as such until March 1876 when it burned.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN HANSON

This is the history of the Catholic church in Hanson as delving into records, recollections, memories, and heresay material can give. But is more - it is the lives of people; their moments of inner joy and prayerful dispair - for of these the church is made. It is, too, the lives of men dedicated to the service of Christ and to serving his people - for of these priests are made.

A little over half a century after the Diocese of Boston was founded, the parish of St. Bridget's was established in 1863 in Abington with Reverend Aaron L. Roche as its first pastor. He would travel to Hanover once a month to say Mass and administer Sacraments to the few Catholics in that area. Mass was said in private homes. Many townspeople of today recall being told by their grandparents of their walking to Abington for Mass at St. Bridget's, feeding the children along the way. One of these pioneer families was that of Mr. John Silvia who had come from Boston to live on State Street. His grandson, Mr. Tony Slaney, lives on Hudson Street.

In the year 1870 the admired Father Roche died. Both Catholics and their non-Catholic friends in large numbers attended his funeral to pay tribute to a priest whose dedication began the spread of Catholic friendship in this area.

During the next few years the pastors from Abington continued to serve the people of Hanover, Hanson and surrounding areas. These pastors were Reverend Michael Moran, who later

became pastor of St. Stephen's Church in Boston; Reverend James C. Murphy, who built St. Peter's Church in Plymouth; and Reverend William P. McQuaid.

In 1879 Father McQuaid bought a site of land on Broadway, Hanover for $50.00 for a church location. At about the same time he started a church in Rockland. To help in these undertakings the Rockland Catholic Church Fund Society was founded. In the year 1882 his excellency Archbishop John J. Williams blessed the Rockland church under the title of Holy Family, and the Hanover ediface as Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

The new pastor of the Rockland-Hanover parish was Reverend John D. Tierney. The first confirmation class was confirmed by Archbishop Williams on September 6, 1883 and the first class for Holy Communion was on October 6, 1884. Priests from Rockland would come by horse and buggy to say Mass each Sunday at Hanover. It was to this church that the Catholics of the northern part of Hanson and Pembroke went. Some of the priests who tended them were Fathers Charles A. O'Connor, Francis Walsh, James H. O'Neil, who can be remembered coming to Mass with his dog sitting on the buggy seat beside him, Philip Sexton, George A. Gately, J. M. Gallagher, Thomas P. McGinn, Richard Boland and James Barrett.

At about the same time, the church was started in Whitman also by Father McQuaid. On November 14, 1886, the church was completed and dedicated to the Holy Ghost. It continued to

be under the Abington parish and Reverend J. F. Mundy succeeded Father McQuaid as pastor.

It was to this new church in Whitman that the Catholics of the south and western parts of Hanson went. The early records show that Marie-Anneta LeBlanc of Hanson, daughter of Paul Leblanc, was baptized on June 8, 1888; Alicia McGeough of Wilson Street, daughter of John McGeough and Mary Pope was baptized on June 20, 1888 and her sister, Helen, was baptized on May 4, 1890. Also Joseph R. White, son of Frank and Anna White was baptized on December 29, 1889.

In 1897 Whitman was made a separate parish with Reverend James Hamilton as resident pastor and Reverend John Cronin the first curate.

In 1907 the late William Cardinal O'Connell separated the Hanover and Rockland parishes. The sparsely populated areas of Hanover, Hanson, Pembroke, Halifax and Plympton were entrusted to the Hanover parish of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Reverend James J. Gilday was its first pastor and the others that followed in succession were Fathers Charles F. Donahoe, John H. Harrigan and Daniel Sheerin. They boarded in private homes in Hanover and continued the growth and physical expansion of the church.

By this time many more Catholics had migrated from the Boston area. The many lakes were being developed into summer

colonies with a large Catholic population. During the first decade of the 20th century the Catholics of this section would travel by train or the new horseless carriage to the churches of Hanover, Whiteman or, after 1908, the Kingston church. It can be remembered the Mr. William Duffy, father of Mr. Edward Duffy who at present lives on Spofford Avenue, put benches in a truck and had a jitney service. The fare to and from Kingston is remembered as 10¢. Mr. Frank Purpura would also collect parishoners and take them to the nearest Mass.

Records of the Hanover church show that in 1911, Ruth Fortier, daughter of Alfred and Mary Caples Fortier was baptized, and that Annie Coit, daughter of Manuel and Mary Coit was baptized in 1913.

At about 1916 Masses began to be said in this area when Father Habestrod from Kingston said Mass in the theater of the then flourishing Mayflower Grove. In 1917 Reverend Timothy Callahan became pastor of Hanover and he would drive to Monponsett every Sunday to say Mass in the pavillion of the Hotel Monponsett. His successor, Rev. M.J.Sullivan also used the theater of Mayflower Grove.

The first instruction for the children was started at this time when, in 1919, Father John Starr, then curate at the Whitman church used to gather the children of the Pleasant Street section of Hanson for catechism class each Sunday morning. In warm weather classes were held under trees. He was given

the use of a violin shop which was on the property of Angelo Silvestri for use at other times.

It was in 1920 that Reverend Patrick H. Walsh became the pastor of the Hanover parish and started a new era in the Catholic church in Hanson. He decided to live at the Hotel Monponsett and to commute to Hanover. The first Masses during the summer months were said at the Hotel Monponsett and at an old dance hall pavilion directly opposite the Monponsett railroad station. In the wintertime the handful of Catholic faithful would gather in the Queen May cottage owned by May Quinn and located opposite the present Gentile's market.

Mr. William Ingalls, who now lives on Monponsett Street would light the pot bellied stove and the "Twelve Apostles", as Father Walsh often called them, would keep it going throughout Mass. Among these first parishoners were: Mr. and Mrs. William Ingalls, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ferry, Mary and Julia O'Brien, Mr. James Shay of Pleasant Street, and Mr. Robert Schindler.

At this time the whist parties which have continued to the present day were started to raise money for Father Walsh and his plans. They were held in private homes as that of Mr. Joe Longo of Pleasant Street. Other willing workers were: Catherine and Louis Sweeney, Mrs. Hennessey, Mrs. Thomas Woodbury, Charles Ferry and Mr. and Mrs. Ryan.

The Catholic Church in Hanson (Cont.)

Their efforts and zeal were rewarded when on March 12, 1921, Father Walsh purchased a large tract of land opposite West Lake in Monponsett from Mrs. Caroline Sandford. On the site a Dr. Klein had had a sanitorium caring for eye diseases. There was a five-storied bell tower on the sanitorium and the fire bell from that tower was installed in the belfrey when the new church was built and is there today.

On the present parking lot was a large colonial farm house owned by Mr. Sandford. It was used by the Benziger Brothers European makers of enamel light sockets, under the name of the Wirth Company. This was also bought by Father Walsh and the building remained for several years before being torn down.

A mission styled church was designed by Mr. Charles Norton of Boston and built by the Harlow Brothers of Middleboro. In 1922 the ediface was blessed by Cardinal O'Connell and dedicated to Our Lady of the Lake. It was built much as it looks today. During the winter months the main church was closed off and right chapel side was used. Mr. Charles Ferry and Mr. Robert Andrews, who has been a Selectman for the town of Hanson for many years, would put up large partitions to close off the main church. The hooks used can still be seen against the posts.

The first sexton was Mr. Jim McInty, who lived in the basement of the church. Others who followed in caring for the church were Mr. William Kelley, Mr. Danny Lynch, Mr. William

Ingalls (1922 - 1945), Mr. Frank Purpura, and Mr. Mickey Welch.

The first baptism in the new church was that of William Joseph Duffy, son of William and Catherine Duffy of Monponsett Street, the same Mr. Duffy who had transported parishoners to the early churches.

During the four years that Father Walsh was pastor of the Hanover-Hanson parish he inspired the young and growing Hanover parish and organized the limited Hanson congregation of winter and summer residents to work for their own mission. Father Walsh died only a short time ago after many successful years as pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church, South Weymouth.

In June, 1924 a very kind man, Reverend Peter J. McCormack came as pastor of the parish. He, too, lived at the Hotel Monponsett. He continued the building of the church and had the grounds landscaped by George and Ernie Sturtevant of Halifax. He had church pews built to replace the original setees. Father McCormack later died as pastor of St. Paul's, Hingham.

The first altar boy was William Kelley, Jr. who had been given instructions by Father Walsh. A few years later, Frank Valentine, himself a young boy at the time, organized the first corps of altar boys. Victor LeClair, Clement LeClair, John Ferry, Stephen Croghan and Vincent Kelley were among the

original group. During the summer months when his family was in Monponsett, Mr. Valentine served most of the Masses and all the ceremonies for many years.

Reverend Patrick Crayton became pastor of Hanover-Hanson in 1926. He offered Mass for the people of Bryantville at Mayflower Grove. He was highly educated and a splendid orator. Lawn parties held on the grounds of the Monponsett Hotel and penny sales, usually under the leadership of Mrs. Mae O'Shaugnessy, brought in substantial revenue for the works of the Church. Father Crayton left to become pastor of the Rockland church and died there a short time later.

Father Frank H. Houston was the next pastor appointed by the chancellery. He continued to live at the Hotel and to say Mass in Hanover, Hanson and Bryantville.

During his pastorship, Natalie Silvestri, a promising music student of 13, became the first resident organist. An organ which was pumped by foot pedals was donated to the Monponsett church by Mrs. Mary Spillane, a generous benefactor of the church. Before this time Priests from the Mirimar Seminary in Duxbury would furnish the music for special occasions. With her two younger sisters - Angeline and Victoria - the first choir was established and they provided the music for Monponsett Hanover, and the Hanson church to be built, until 1940.

The first confirmation service was conducted by Bishop

Spellman during Father Houston's pastorship with Mr. and Mrs. William Kelley as sponsors.

The next pastor, Reverend Eugene Maguire arrived in 1937. He worked tirelessly to enlarge facilities and bring greater service to his flock. Under Father Maguire the parish prospered.

In December of 1937 he purchased a large house across the street from the Monponsett church from Louis and Louise Schindler Walsh to serve as a rectory.

His attention then turned to the people in the north and western parts of the town of Hanson. The Hanson Catholics of these areas were still affiliated with the Whitman Holy Ghost Church. Father Starr, who had succeeded Father Hamilton as pastor in 1935, sent a bus from Carey's Motors Company each Sunday morning to pick up the Hanson parishoners for Mass and for Sunday School instruction immediately following. Mrs. Jane Bates of Liberty Street was in charge of the bus service.

At the suggestion of Mrs. Bates, Mrs. Catherine Berrigan, who was in the Public Welfare office of the town for many years, and Mrs. Daniel Irving, then of Maquan Street the selectment of Hanson very kindly gave Father Maguire the use of the Town Hall for Sunday Mass.

In the summertime Father Maguire also held Masses in a building in the rear of Brown Betty at Oldham Pond.

The Catholic Church in Hanson (Cont.)

On July 28, 1938 Father Maguire purchased a tract of land at the junction of Indian Head and Maquan Streets from the Hanover Fireworks to serve as a mission for the people of Hanson, Pembroke and the Pembroke lakes. Robert Lloyd of Arlington was the architect and builder of a colonial church which was dedicated in 1939 to St. Joseph.

Father Maguire was the first pastor to have a curate, Reverend James Rafferty. Others that have served as curates to the present day are: Fathers Mahoney, Hayes, Harris, Glennon, Powers, Hayes, McGinley, F. Flaherty, Meade, Murray, McDevitt, Glynn, Scully, Walker and Scullin.

Father Maguire, who is still pastor of St. Rita's, Lowell is much loved and well remembered by all the Catholics in this area.

Reverend Patrick Flaherty succeeded him as pastor, arriving in July 1943. The first of the Flaherty brothers was a kind and friendly man. He redecorated Our Lady of the Lake Church and closed in the rafters which had been exposed since its construction. He installed a modern electric kitchen in the basement of the Hanson church. He organized the Holy Name Society and the Catholic Woman's Guild.

When in November 1945, Archbishop Cushing separated Hanover and Hanson, Father Flaherty remained as pastor of Our Lady of the Lake and its mission, St. Joseph. Reverend Robert Hinsh-

cliffe was appointed pastor of Hanover.

Father "Pat" was followed by Father "Frank" Flaherty, who had just served his country as a navy chaplain. He installed a public address system at Monponsett. Father Francis Flaherty followed his brother again as pastor of St. Mary of the Hills Church, Milton and is a Monseignor in charge there now.

On April 7, 1953 Reverend Russell Haley became pastor of the combined Hanson parish. He was zealous and friendly with an excellent memory. When in 1954 he became ill, Reverend Joseph Shea was appointed temporary administrator with Father John J. Glynn as curate.

The Hanson church was separated from Monponsett in June 1956, as St. Joseph the Worker Parish with Reverend John T. Sullivan as pastor. The large white house adjacent to the church was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. John Dolan as a rectory. The first marriage solemnized in the new parish was that of Eleanor F. Bates and Thomas O. Mullen on July 28, 1956. The first baptism was that of David John Hickey of Clara Avenue on July 29, 1956. The first altar boys were Billy and Dickie Ferris, John DiGregorio, Francis Lyons, and Kevin Kenney.

The parish under Father Sullivan has been a very active and successful religious congregation. With the help of Reverend Richard Powers of St. Sebastian Day School of Newton and the Holy Cross Fathers of Stonehill College Sunday Masses

are at 7:00, 8:30, 10:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the winter and at 7:00, 8:30, 9L30, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. during the summer months. Confessions are heard every Saturday afternoon from 4:30 to 5:30 and in the evening from 7:30 to 8:30 and in the evenings only before First Fridays and Holy Days. There is a sodality of 50 women and a Holy Name Society of about 35 men.

Christian Doctrine classes for high school students are held on Wednesday evening and catechism classes for grade school children are on Saturday mornings. There are twenty-five altar boys, a junior and senior choir under the direction of Miss Eleanor Mullen. The altar society is made up of fourteen women headed by Mrs. Alexander Brennan and there are ten ushers. Mr. Roy Ferris is sexton and Mr. Edward Wenz is supervisor of traffic.

The Reverend pastor of St. Joseph's is now the chaplain of the Plymouth County Hospital. Confessions are heard during the week and Mass is said on Sunday at 8:00 with communion to bed patients.

Many improvements have been made to enhance the church both on the inside and on the outside. A new electronic organ fund purchased an organ to replace the original foot-pedaled one. The now famous style show reviews have become a traditional Fall social event. Written and directed by Father Powers the professional standard of this show is worth of its large patronage.

The yearly Thanksgiving whist party held in the auditorium - gymnasium of the Indian Head School is gigantic and successful. Much effort is put into such an outstanding affair.

The spaghetti supper run by Pembroke Police Chief Al Lanzilotta and his men is another successful fund raising event of the parishoners. Such an ambitious and cooperative parish will surely have the help of the Lord to continue to prosper!

At the Monponsett parish Father Haley returned to find that the work of a congregation was still too rigorous and on March 12, 1957 Reverend William Wallace came to Our Lady of the Lake as administrator. A true priestly priest, Father Wallace is an organizer with such direction and yet humility that he is admired and respected by Catholics and non- Catholics alike.

He revitalized every phase of the religious life of the parish. His special work was among the children and young adults and he organized a CYO, initiated a baseball and basketball program for them and social dances. He increased the altar boy corps.

The church structure and grounds were also improved by Father Wallace. In May of 1958 a shrine to Our Lady was given by the family of John Dias, Jr. who at 1½ met accidental

death and the rail was given by the family of the late Dexter Deering.

The large gathering of friends and parishoners at the Monponsett Inn on April 29, 1960 to wish Father Wallace best wishes on his new assignment to the large St. Peter's Parish in Cambridge, showed the high esteem the people had for such a truly outstanding shepherd.

From April 26, 1960 to his untimely death two months later the parish was served by Father John J. McGinley. He was the first priest to die during his pastorship at Monponsett. The office of the Dead was chanted at Our Lady of the Lake and St. John's Seminary Choir sang his requiem Mass which was presided over by Bishop Riley.

The present pastor, Father John Kelly came on June 29, 1960. His kindly manner and friendly nature have already endeared him to his parishoners. With a present parish population of 570 he carries on a full parish schedule. Sunday Masses are at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. during the winter and at 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. in the summer months. Holy day Masses are at 7:00 and 9:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Weekday Masses are at 7:30 a.m. daily. Confessions are from 4:00 to 5:30 on Saturday afternoons and 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the evenings and evenings only before Holy Days and First Fridays.

Christian Doctrine instruction for the children of the parish is held each Saturday Morning at 10:00 a.m. The young adults of high school age meet each Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. The Ladies Sodality meets on second Monday and the Holy Name on the second Sunday. Mrs. Frank Purpura is in charge of the altar society and Mrs. Frank Valentine is president of the Legion of Mary. There is a senior choir under the direction of Mrs. Helen Sweeney. Father Kelly and the Priests from Mirimar are served by altar boys.

The spiritual life of a parish is enriched by the people who enter the vocations. Monponsett parish has been blessed by Reverend Richard LeClair, son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor LeClair of Monponsett Street, who joined the order of the Holy Cross Fathers in 1950 and for many years has been in the mission fields of Africa. His present station is in Moshi, Tanganyika Territory.

On August 13, 1960 two young ladies, Miss Mary Ellen Harrington of Our Lady of the Lake Parish and Miss Sheila Cotty of St. Joseph's Parish took vows in the Congregation of the Sisters of the Divine Providence in Kingston.

The year 1961 brings the past to a close but it is only the beginning of a future that promises great religious wealth for the people of Hanson.

Gad Hitchcock D. D.

1719 - 1803

First ordained minister of the

old West Parish Meeting House

Congregational Church 1748

(High St.)

Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Congregational Church

Group led by Alice and Daniel Lewis

Baptist Church

dedicated Nov. 16, 1820

(Main St.)

St. Joseph the Worker, Catholic Church

dedicated 1939 as a mission of Our Lady of the Lake, Monponsett,

made a parish June 1956 (Maquan St.)

Early Spiritualist Group

in front of Wallace House's home after a meeting

CEMETERIES AND BURIAL GROUNDS

OLD BURIAL HILL IN HANSON

The old settlers of Pembroke, West Parish, selected a pleasant spot for their last resting place.

It is an irregular ridge of land, running nearly north and south, and parallel with the pond which stretches along its eastern base. The faint hum of the mill, a half mile away, or on Sundays, the music of the church bells, are almost the only sounds to break the quiet of the place.

The western side of the hill is quite steep, and the crest of the ridge is broken into two distinct knolls by a little valley about midway of the ground.

The first burials were on the highest part of these two knolls, the northern and highest one having the most of the oldest graves.

The hill is referred to in old deeds as "gravelly hill". The oldest headstone, dated 1745, is on the northern knoll, and is that of a child of the Cushing family, which was then probably the leading family of the Parish in social position.

The southern knoll has the graves of the Thomas family, at that time the owners of the land. The old minister, too, who came when the parish was first formed, and served them faithfully for fifty-five years, finds here among his descendants, the place for his last sleep.

At the time of the first burial here, 1745, the hill was

owned by Captain Edward Thomas, the first clerk of the parish. He had received it at the death of his father, Lieut. Isaac Thomas in 1731.

Although belonging to the Thomas family, this hill had been in general use by the parish as a burial for nearly sixty years. Most, if not all, of the original members of the parish, had been borne "slow through the churchyard path".

On Sept. 29, 1804 Nathaniel Thomas of Pembroke, in consideration of $20.00 paid by Oliver Whitten, Thomas Hobart, and Isaac Bowen Barker, sold two acres, 13 rods of land for purpose of a burying yard for the use of second parish.

This continued in common use by the parish, and after 1820 by the town of Hanson. March 11, 1811 a committee was chosen to buy a hearse and build a suitable building to house it in. The sum of $80.00 was appropriated. April 8, 1822 it was voted that the hearse-house, hearse, harness and pall, now the property of the Parish, may become the property of the Town of Hanson if the town saw fit to accept the same and keep the property in repair.

"Fern Hill Cemetery Corporation" was organized in 1847, the name being suggested by Capt. Joshua Smith.

The original proprietors were Ezra Phillips, Jr., Alden Beal, Asaph Peterson, Rev. Elmer Hewitt, Thomas H. Perkins, Joshua Smith, Christopher C. Tilden, Rev. Samuel L. Rockwood,

George P. Beal, Nathaniel Thomas, Jeremiah Soper, Seth Gannett, Cushing Vinal, and Thomas G. Clark.

Joshua Smith was elected president; Rev. S. L. Rockwood, vice-president; Christopher Tilden, Secretary; Ezra Phillips, treasurer. The latter was chosen a committee to purchase of Mr. Thomas Hobart the land lying between the old burial hill and the highway, the price not to exceed $20.00 for each proprietor. It was voted to present each of the religious societies in the town with a lot and it was left optional with the committee to consecrate the ground or not.

The first burial in the new ground was Mrs. Mehitable Hunt, wife of Asaph Peterson.

Later the Dame Annex was added, and then the Cobb annex. In the combined cemeteries there are about 850 lot owners.

The Receiving Tomb was built by the town of Hanson in 1895 costing nearly $550.00. The granite archway at the entrance "1750-1900" was procured mainly through the efforts of the "Hanson Improvement Society" at the cost of about $700.00.

It has been stated by the older folks and handed down from one to another that bodies were buried in all ways in those early days with no attention paid to arrangement and with no markers. Many a time a previous grave would be dug into only to be filled in and another place used. Bodies

were buried helter skelter, hit-or-miss, so that the Lord only knows who they were.

It is also said that in the earliest times, folks used to bury their deceased relatives on their farms, there being no cemeteries laid out for public use. In winter they would use places dug out of a hill and stoned up. The bodies were placed therein until spring when they would be taken out and buried in their private burying ground.

Small private burying lots are still seen in and about town but not used. One is on a knoll at the bend on the road just west of Poor Meadow Brook. It is thought to have been connected with the community church, built in 1788, just across the road. Stones in this old cemetery are on the "Crystal Springs" farm owned (1960) by E. Allen Anderson.

STONES IN OLD CEMETERY AT CRYSTAL SPRINGS

	Died	Age
Miss Drusilla Hobart	March 3, 1793	16 yrs. 11 mo.
Isaac Hobart	June 12, 1832	
George C. Hobart	June 30, 1826	1 mo. 5 days
Thomas Hobart	1794	
Jane Hobart	Oct. 15, 1797	65 yrs. 9 mo.
Joseph H. Harding	July 22, 1852	2 yrs. 13 days
Alpheus C. Harding	July 4, 1879	58 yrs. 1 mo. 20 d.
Hannah C. Harding	Jan. 29, 1899	75 yrs. 6 mo. 5 d.
Barzilla E. Rider	Sept. 8, 1825	4 yrs. 4 mo. 21 d.
Ezra Rider	Oct. 28, 1826	43 yrs.
Mary Foster (Mrs.)	July 18, 1826	26 yrs.
Elisher D. Sherman	Oct. 21, 1832	68 yrs.
Ruth D. Sherman (Mrs.)	Oct. 4, 1836	74 yrs.

Old Burial Hill in Hanson (Cont.)

Another is found between the railroad tracks and the houses on Main Street, about in the rear of the late Elliott Wade place. It was called the Monroe private burying ground, originally in an open field surrounded by a heavy dense forest of pine trees and the burial place of the wife of Henry Munroe, Sr., who with several children died of small pox in 1759. Later half an acre was appropriated for the use of inhabitants of the vicinity. George Munroe died 1820; Mary Munroe, wife of George, died 1839; Benjamin Munroe died 1824; Abigail, wife of Benjamin, died 1836. This cemetery was also used by the Bisbees. The last person to be buried there was Mr. Cyphus Howard, the father of Channing Howard who owned a store in Bryantville.

Another small private lot is on Hudson Street, Halifax, and is near the road, on a corner of the field once owned by Cyrus Monroe.

Still another was located on Franklin Street, just north of the Pox House R. R. crossing on the right-hand side. A house used to stand in this vicinity many years ago called the pox house where small-pox patients were cared for. Those who died of the dread disease were hastily buried to prevent the spread of the plague.

On Indian Head Street, quite a distance from the highway, in a field, only a short distance from Maquan Pond is the Howland Cemetery. This is a private plot once used for a burying

ground by old settlers that lived nearby. There are three stones in a pine grove - all in good condition.

	Died	Age
Lewis Howland	1846	40 years
Pamelie, widow of Lewis Howland	1869	64 years
Susan F., daughter of the above	1866	16 years

On Main Street to the right, almost in Bryantville Square, are two tombs where the members of the old-time Thomas families used to be interred many years ago. Since the public burying grounds have been established, these tombs are no longer of any use.

	Died	Age
Rebecca Thomas, born 1810	1879	
Marcus Thomas	1881	71 yrs.
Louisa, their daughter	1904	70 yrs.

Levi Thomas Tomb 1832

Lydia, his wife

Children: Sally, Levi, Heman, Marcus, Nathaniel, Thatcher, Elija, Benjamin

The stetson Cemetery near the railroad at the Walter Estes Bog is in poor condition. There are few slates in an upright condition and the entire area shows the result of reckless destructiveness. The oldest grave is:

	Died	Age
Jacob Chapman died of small pox	1777	
John Stetson	1776	45 years
Abel Stetson	1810	54 years
Joel White	1822	66 years
Margaret, wife of Joel	1821	65 years
Samuel Howland	1815	

Old Burial Hill in Hanson (Cont.)

	Died	Age
Sylvanus Everson	1872	86 years
Lydia, wife of Sylvanus	1851	58 years
Lucy, wife of Israel Thrasher	1856	31 years
Sarah White, widow of Bethuel White	1859	81 years

The Stetson family were Pembroke people.

There are also three other tombs in town; one on Winter Street, called the Macomber tomb, one on Dr. Pierce's land and one on West Washington Street.

HANSON SOLDIERS MONUMENT

The Hanson Soldiers Monument was placed upon its foundation in Fern Hill Cemetery November 21 and November 22, 1905, after many years of hard work, and at times almost hopeless work.

For many years there had been talk of a monument, but there seems to be no record of any concerted action until 1897. At this time, the Theodore L. Bonney Womans Relief Corps voted to erect a soldiers monument and pledged two hundred dollars. Then a committee consisting of Mrs. Hannah B. Baker, Mrs. Sarah Pratt, and Mrs. Mary H. Bates began the canvass of the town for funds. They found it hard work, and the people not responding. Decoration Day, 1897, Mrs. Baker made an eloquent appeal to the people of the town. Many pledges were obtained but very little money was paid in as the pledgers did not think it would be a success. Mrs. Baker worked faithfully as long as her health would permit, but she did not live to complete her work.

In March 1904 the WRC Monummet Committee, with Mrs. Mary F. Bates, Chairman, suggested having a sewing circle and invited every woman in town to join. Mrs. Bates called a meeting and organized the Memorial Sewing Circle with the following officers: Mrs. Mary F. Bates, president; Mrs. Cornelia Cook, vice president; Mrs. Abbie Phillips, secretary; and Mrs. Ellen Ford, treasurer.

Hanson Soldiers Monument (Cont.)

Meetings were held every two weeks during the summer. They held fairs, suppers, entertainments, collected contributions, and turned over to the Monument Committee $388.30.

At town meeting March 7, 1904, Mrs. Mary Bates asked the town to give $300.00 towards the Monument. The town voted to raise and appropriate this amount, and later it was paid over to the Monument Committee. Mrs. Bates also asked that the town appoint a committee of three to form with the WRC Monument Committee, a Hanson Soldiers Monument Committee. The following were elected: Frank W. Damon, Flavel S. Thomas, and Barker Baker.

In September 1901, Mrs. Bates became Chairman of the Hanson Soldiers Monument Committee as now composed of representatives of the WRC and of the town.

The Committee was made up as follows: Barker Baker; Mary F. Bates, Chairman; Cornelia Cook; Frank W. Damon; Helen A. Harding, Treasurer; Sarah Pratt; Flavel S. Thomas, Secretary.

Dr. Thomas' work as secretary and his willingness to serve gradually led to his becoming general business agent and later superintendent of the putting in of the foundation and the erection of the Monument.

For months the committee held meetings, consulted with Monument men and examined plans, designs, and estimates. At last they voted to award the contract to Presby and Coykendall

of New York City. To Mrs. Cook belongs the credit of suggesting the monument later voted for. Mr. Presby had no design that suited the Committee as they wanted one with a soldier on top. He had many photographs of work he had done. One was a monument made for a private lot, like the pedestal of our Soldiers Monument. Mrs. Cook said, "Why not put a statue of a soldier on top of that? Why wouldn't that make a good Soldiers Monument?" After some consideration it was decided that it would make a good one, and later the secretary was directed to order and contract for it.

In the fall Mr. Presby wrote and asked the secretary to get someone to put in the foundation; and to superintend it to see that it was done in a satisfactory manner. Arrangements were made with Mr. William B. Elms to build the foundation. Later Mr. Presby wrote the secretary asking him to secure someone in Whitman to truck the monument and secure a derrick, etc. Michael Kenneally was secured. The secretary carefully watched the building of the foundation and the erection of the entire Monument from the placing of the base stone to the washing off of the complete structure. As he had superintended the building of the foundations and the placing of every stone in the arch, he was not without knowledge and experience.

The survey for the location of the Monument relative to the arch and drives and its height above ground was the work of the secretary and Mr. Mercer V. Tillson.

Hanson Soldiers Monument (Cont.)

Making out the list of names for the Monument was done by the secretary assisted by Mercer V. Tillson and Otis L. Bonney, Esq. Probably Mr. Tillson devoted more time to it than any other person. Frequent reports were made to the full committee which voted to accept and adopt the list now on the Monument.

The collecting of contributions was done mostly by Mrs. Bates, Mrs. Cook, and Mrs. Pratt.

The following are some of the large contributions:

Admiral A. S. Barker	$45.
Mr. Morton V. Bonney	40.
Otis L. Bonney, Esq.	25.
Mr. Thomas Drew	20.

Quite a large number gave five and ten dollars each. The Committee were very grateful to each and all for kind aid in each and every way.

At the dedication, October 20, 1906, all received full credit in a carefully prepared paper the result of careful study and thorough investigation.

A peroration would seem in place telling how these Hanson men and boys left work, pleasures, relatives, and homes to risk health and life to abolish slavery and to preserve the union. But more eloquent than words is this beautiful monument. More eloquent yet is the invisible monument built of hard work - at times hopeless work and despair - of devotion, love patriotism, and appreciation. If at times the members of the Grand Army of the Republic think they have not received the honor and

appreciation due them, let them carefully examine this invisible monument and I am sure their hearts will be filled with gratitude to the Womans Relief Corps. This work they have undertaken is completed and well done. It was a noble work nobly done. In admiration and deference, we doff, bow, and kneel to the WRC.

Gravely Hill (Fern Hill Cemetery)

First burial ground of the West Parish settlers

Oldest headstone 1745

Fern Hill Cemetery - Granite arch way 1750 - 1900

(High St.)

The five following photographs show portions of the private family burial grounds within the town

Thomas Tombs

(Main St.)

Howland Burial Ground

(Off Indian Head St.)

Hobart Burial Ground

Crystal Spring Farm

(Off Main and Franklin Sts.)

Monroe Burial Ground

(Off Main St.)

Stetson Burial Ground

(Off Monponsett St.)

MILITARY HISTORY OF THE TOWN

MILITARY HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF HANSON

INTRODUCTION

This is a military history of the Town of Hanson starting when it was still a part of Pembroke, West Parish, during, up to, and including the late Korean conflict.

Hanson had no military record prior to 1820, only that of Pembroke, but the West Parish shared in the sentiments and participated in the various military resolves, and its citizens responded to the call for troops in great proportion to their numbers.

The spirit brought about by the wars with Great Britain survived long after peace was declared, and military companies were organized and uniformed. The parades were always well received and it was a colorful sight to see the militia men in their black and white hats and green and grey jackets. However, this was soon superseded by the more colorful blue uniforms of the volunteer companies who received much encouragement from the townspeople.

About the time of the incorporation of the town, the Hanson Light Infantry was formed but soon disbanded. Again in the fall of 1836 a second Light Infantry company was formed in the south part of town and existed until 1847. From this point up to the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 there was no organized military activites in the town.

During the Civil War, as in the wars since, Hanson has done more than its share in many cases to fulfill the requirements of the State or Federal governments during the time of need and can certainly take an honored place in the military history of our state.

NOTE: Due to a great variance in the different statistical records as to the number of men actually taking part in the various wars, we feel this writing to be more accurate than many past writings as it is a composite of a great many.

FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR 1754 - 1760

The claims of the English and the French settlers in North America were, from the beginning, conflicting. The colonies on the seacoast announced the English had a right to all the land that went inland from those points. The French claimed that the settlement at the source or the mouth of a river conferred a title to all territory which the river drained.

As a result, the English pressed westward from the Atlantic coast, the French southward from Canada and northward from Louisiana. A conflict was inevitable.

The French were determined to maintain their holdings, mainly the lands watered by the Ohio, and to these the English were equally determined to assert their claim. In 1754 the

governor of Virginia sent out young George Washington with a small force to demand the French to withdraw from the contested area. Of course the French refused and the first gun of the war was fired. In 1755 General Braddock led the English force into the Allegheny and Monongahela area. Refusing to take advise from Washington, Braddock was killed after leading his troops to defeat. Washington was able to lead part of his troops to safety. In the same year, the English were unsuccessful in two other expeditions, and it wasn't until 1758 that they began to retrieve their fortunes. The tide had turned - one English victory after another led up to the final battle of the war, the Battle of Quebec. English General Wolfe struck a powerful blow on the French led by Montcalm; when Quebec fell the long struggle was ended. The English were now supreme in North America.

The Treaty of Paris, signed in 1763, gave to England Canada and all the French possessions east of the Mississippi, together with the Spanish territory of Florida. Spain received from France all of its lands west of the Mississippi.

There were few men from Hanson (then the West Parish of Pembroke) that took part in the French and Indian War.

The records show 20 men who are listed below:

Leonard Hill	Abner Bisbe
Consider Cole	Elijah Cushing
Nathaniel Cox	Jacob Bonney
Nathaniel Cushing, Jr.	Daniel Crocker, Jr.
Thomas Stetson	Asa Robinson
John Record	Samuel Romsdell, Jr.
Increase Robinson	Zephaniah Hatch
Gideon Bisbe	John Leavitt
William Pierce	Samuel Bennet
Joseph Stetson	John Pumpelly

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR 1775 - 1783

At the conclusion of peach in 1763, following the French and Indian War, Great Britain possessed the greater part of the North American continent. The English government had no firm policy to apply to its constantly growing colonies. The French and Indian War had cost England about $350,000,000. and the King insisted that the colonies should pay part of this debt. As a result such things as the "Stamp Act" and heavy taxation were inflicted on the colonies. After a few civil disturbances such as the Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Part, and others, the colonists began preparing for retaliation.

General Gage, the English commander in Boston, heard of the military stores of the colonists in Concord and sent 800 men to take them. This resulted in the famed Lexington and Concord battle in 1775.

In July of 1776 the United Colonies through congress asked for their independence and on August 2nd the Declaration of Independence was signed. From this point on one event led to another and there was general war throughout the colonies until the two forces engaged in Yorktown, where on October of 1781 the English surrendered.

A provisional treaty of peace was signed before the close of 1782 and on April 19, 1783, eight years after the battle at Lexington and Concord, Washington issued an order declaring the war at an end.

The treaty of peace was signed in Paris on September 3rd 1783. During the eight years of war many men were engaged from Plymouth County and it has been said that Pembroke including the West Parish (Hanson)furnished more men for their size than any other town in the state. (Approximately 150 men.)

A company of men marched from Pembroke, West Parish (now Hanson) to Marshfield on the alarm of April 19, 1775. Term of service, two days. This company was in the command of Capt. Elijah Cushing and consisted of two other officers, four sargents, a fifer, and a drummer, and 53 privates:

Capt. Elijah Cushing
1st Lieut. Edward Thomas
2nd Lieut. Lemuel Bonney
Sgt. Johua Barker
Sgt. Simeon Jones
Sgt. Noah Bonney
Sgt. Snow Baker

Fifer - Jabez Hatch
Drummer - Issac Hobart

Pvts.:

Henry Perry	Nathaniel Cushing
William Phillips, Jr.	Elijah Cushing, Jr.
Richard Phillips	Henry Monroe, Jr.
Gideon Ramsdell, Jr.	Thomas Osborn
Jacob Leavitt	John Bonney
Abel Bourn	George Osborn, Jr.
Matthew Tilleye	Levi Wade
Samuel Hill	Abraham Josselyn
Alexander Soper, Jr.	Nehemiah Ramsdell
Benjamin Ramson, Jr.	Joshua Pratt
Seth Bearce	Gain Robinson
Elisha Records	Isaiah Bearce
Samuel Bonney	Isaac Thomas
Edward Hayford	Jacob Bearce
Joseph Hollis	Ichabod Howland
Adam Perry	Matthew Whitten, Jr.
Gamaliel Bisbee	John Whitten
Noah Perry	Joseph Howland
Howland Beals	James Torrey
Joseph Bonney	Thomas Records
Ebenezer Bonney	Reuben Harden
Samuel Ramsdell, Jr.	George Osborn

Pvts.	Josiah Cushing, Jr.	James Tillson
	Lot Dwelley	John Jeffrey
	Richard Buker	Theophilus Cushing
	Richard Lowden	

Another company of Minute-men marched the same day from Pembroke's West Parish to Scituate and Marshfield. Their term of service was eleven days. This company was led by Capt. James Hatch and was composed of two other officers and four sargents, four corporals, a fifer and a drummer and 35 privates:

Capt. James Hatch
1st Lieut. Consider Cole
2nd Lieut. Eleazer Hamblin

Sgts.	Caleb Howland	Thomas Fuller
	Nathaniel Thomas	Seth Phillips
Cpls.	Daniel Crooker	Ephriam Briggs
	Samuel Howland	Linus Tower
Fifer	Ezekiel Bonney	Drummer Isaac Wade
Pvts.	Increase Robinson	William Hayford
	Isaac Beals	Jonathan Bonney
	Isaac Moore	Charles Jewetts
	Christopher Phillips	Daniel Garrick, Jr.
	Isaac Bonney	Richard Buker, Jr.
	Elijah Cushing 3rd	Samuel Harden
	Eleazer Bisbee	Abijah Levitt
	Leonard Hill	Samuel Gorham
	Thomas Lincoln	Seth Perry
	Ephraim Lindsay	Isaac Phillips
	William Bonney	Reuben Clark
	Benjamin Guilliam	Daniel Beals
	Levi Crook	Lott Phillips
	John Stetson	William Gould
	Daniel Child	Alexander Soper
	Benjamin Munroe	Hezekiah Pearce
	Abraham Josselyn, Jr.	Gershom Ramsdell
	Seth Cox	

On April 20, 1775 six men belonging to Capt. Thomas Turner's company, Colonel Thomas' regiment marched. Term of service was three days.

Pvts.	Micah Foster	Micah Lowden
	Perry Harden	Daniel Bonney
	Zephaniah Hatch	Joseph Josselyn

Nineteen men in the company of Capt. Eleazer Hamblin in Col. John Thomas' regiment; company composed of men from Pembroke, Abington, Stoughton, Bridgewater, Kingston, Marshfield, Hanover, and Boston. Enlisted May 1, 1775 for three months, their names are as follows:

Capt.	Elezer Hamblin	
Ensign	Increase Robinson	
Sgts.	Isaac Moore	
	Seth Phillips	
	Linus Tower	
Cpl.	William Bonney	
Pvts.	Africa Hamblin	Leonard Hill
	Abijah Levitt	Simeon Records
	Richard Buker	William Phillips
	Benjamin Munroe	Europe Hamblin
	George Osborn	Levi Wade
	Thomas Osborn	William Hayford
	Eleazer Bisbe	Isaac Phillips

Six men of Capt. Freedom Chamberlain's company enlisted on May 3, 1775. Their service term was three months, 6 days and they traveled 30 miles.

Pvts.	Zephaniah Hatch	Isaac Bowen Barker
	Thomas Cushing	Fisher Hatch
	Charles Bisbe	William Cushing

A military company of 16 men under the command of Capt. Thomas Turner arrived in camp, January 10, 1776. The 16 men were:

2nd Lieut.	Consider Cole	
Pvts.	Alexander Soper	Reuben Clark
	Nathaniel Chamberlain	Daniel Crooker
	Thomas Lincoln	Nathaniel Soper
	Isaac Wade	Abraham Josselyn
	Josiah Thomas	Reuben Hodges
	Gershom Ramsdell	Perry Ramsdell
	William Delano	Isaac Hobart

James Hatch's company of one other officer, three sargents, two corporals, a fifer, and a drummer and 25 privates marched

from Pembroke, West Parish, to Braintree and Weymouth on the alarm in March of 1776.

Capt. James Hatch
1st Lieut. David Tilden
Sgts. Josiah Cushing
Alexander Soper
Joshua Barker

Cpls. Isaac Moore
A. Josselyn, Jr.

Fifer Ezekiel Bonney

Drummer Isaac Wade

Pvts. Marlborough Whitten
Abel Bourn
Alexander Soper, Jr.
Nathaniel Thomas
Noah Bonney
Simeon Jones
Benjamin Ramsdell
David Beals
Abijah Levitt
Isaac Bonney
Levi Wade
Increase Robinson
William Gould
George Osborn
Nelson Buker
Eleazer Bisbe
William Delano
Daniel Garnet
Lot Dwelley
Isaac Hill
Isaac Hobart
Christopher Phillips
Reuben Harden
Samuel Ramsdell, Jr.

Five men from Capt. Freedom Chamberlain's company marched on the alarm of March 5, 1776 to take possession of Dorchester Heights. Their term of service was five days. The five men who served were:

Isaiah Stetson
Micah Foster
Perry Harden
Josiah Thomas
Isaac Thomas

A company of one sargent, one corporal, one drummer and 12 privates under the command of Capt. James Hatch marched from Pembroke's West Parish to Rhode Island on December 9, 1776. They served for 16 days.

Capt. James Hatch
Sgt. Ephraim Lindsay
Cpl. Samuel Howland
Drummer Isaac Wade
Pvts. Matthew Whitten
Ebenezer Bonney
Abel Bourn
Hugh Osborn
Samuel Harden
Reuben Harden

Pvts.	Eleazer Bisbe	John Bonney
	David Beals	Jacob Levitt
	George Osborn	Lot Dwelley

A second company of six men under the command of Capt. Ichabod Bonney marched to Rhode Island on the same alarm of December 9th. They served 17 days.

Joseph Josselyn	Perry Harden
Daniel Bonney	Josiah Thomas
Isaac Thomas	John Ramsdell

It is noted that there was still a third company of militia men that marched from the West Parish to Rhode Island on that alarm of the 9th day of December. However they didn't actually leave until the 10th and served for one half month. This company was under the command of Capt. Josiah Cushing and consisted of two other officers, two sargents, a fifer and 13 privates.

1st Lieut.	Nathaniel Thomas	
2nd Lieut.	Noah Bonney	
Sgts.	Reuben Clark	
	Jonathan Bonney	
Fifer	Ezekiel Bonney	
Pvts.	Nathaniel Cushing	Howland Beals
	Joshua Barker	Benjamin Barnes
	William Bonney	Francis Josselyn
	Samuel Ramsin	Jacob Garnnet
	Elijah Cushing	Nathaniel Hogges
	Simeon Jones	Nelson Bowker
	Henry Perry	

Seventeen men in Capt. John Turner's company marched to Rhode Island under the resolve of the General Court on September 25th, 1777. They actually marched September 28th for a term of service of one month and one day.

The 17 men were:

Fifer	Isaiah Keen	
Pvts.	William Thomas	Joseph Bonney
	Gershom Ramsdell	Samuel Hill
	Samuel Howland	Simeon Jones
	Zephaniah Hatch	Noah Perry
	Charles Bisbe	Gideon Ramsdell
	Isaac Bisbe	Isaiah Bearce
	Samuel Harden	Abel Bourn
	Melzar Lindsay	John Allen

Ten men from Capt. Ichabod Bonney's company did duty on Castle (Noddle's) Island in Hull in Colonel Sparhawk's regiment. They served for two months and were discharged on December 11, 1778. These men were:

Pvts.	Elijah Bisbe	William Thomas
	George Osborn	Henry Munroe
	Peleg Osborn	Zephaniah Hatch
	James Cole	Nathaniel Torrey
	Matthew Whitten	Levi Wade

The six months volunteers under a resolve of June 5, 1780 actually served five months and 28 days. There were 10 men from the West Parish under this resolve.

Pvts.	Ephraim Tillson	Bennett Pumpelly
	Peleg Dammon	Michael Osborn
	Benjamin Cox	Isaac Thomas
	Henry Monroe	Daniel Russell
	Allen Dwelley	Joseph Robinson

There were 12 men from the West Parish who served in the Continental Army for a period of three years. They were:

Pvts.	Lot Dwelley	Isaac Foster
	Fisher Hatch	Jabez Hatch
	Africa Hamblin	Bennett Pumpelly
	Michael Peirce	Jerrus Phillips
	Isaac Phillips	David Robinson
	Linus Tower	Isaac Thomas

It is interesting to note that the average pay during the Revolution for a Captain was £ 8, Lieutenant £5-8S, Sargent £2-8S, Corporal £2-4S, and a Private £2.

Among those who went in the war were many officers of high rank. Yet in 1780, the town voted that "the officers that go out of this town with the militia shall receive the same pay that the soldiers have". The resolves were very generous in the way of supplies for the soldiers, money raised for bounties and soldiers wages, for there seemed never an opposing vote however large the request, and yet there were no really wealthy people in the town at that time.

Prominent people of the Revolutionary period

The Rev. Gad Hitchcock, minister of the Congregational Church in the 2nd Precinct (now Hanson), in 1765 was invited by the Ancient and Honorable Artillery to give the election sermon. The English commander General Gage was present at this affair, and served as a surgeon in the Revolution.

Elijah Cushing entertained lavishly for that day and age with slaves to do his bidding. There were gay parties and joyful occasions in the old Cushing house during the war years. There were three gallants of Hingham who came to woo the fair daughters of the house and one was General Benjamin Lincoln, who in the war of the Revolution received the sword of British General Cornwallis at Yorktown. He won for his bride, Mary Cushing.

Elijah Cushing was Captain of a company of men raised in the West Parish and who march to Marshfield on the alarm of April 19, 1775. In the company were his sons - Nathaniel and Elijah. The list probably included about all of the able bodied male residents of the Parish.

THE WAR OF 1812 - 1812 - 1814

The War of 1812 is regarded today as an unnecessary struggle between England and her former colonies, the United States. The English set up a sea blockade to cut off French commerce. The English ordered any neutral vessel bound for France to enter an English port and pay duty on her cargo and also undergo search at sea for military contraband. The effect upon the United States was diastrous. Thee English ships practically blockaded all American ports. In 1807 a British ship fired on the American ship The Chesapeake. Irritating and oppressive events such as this and the Embargo Act led up to President Madison's charges against the British government. These charges were; the impressment of American seamen into the British Navy, virtual blockades of U. S. waters, the "Orders in Council" which drove the commerce of the states from the seas, the belief that British agents had instigated several Indian outbreaks in the west. War was declared June 18, 1812, and because of the turn of events, the only important issue upon which it was fought was the impressment of seamen.

The country was not prepared for war with the Navy, having only twenty warships of all classes. The war only lasted about three years. The first year was chiefly a sea engagement, in 1813 one of the major U. S. victories was General Harrison's defeat over the British and the Indians at the Thames River in Canada. The territory of Michigan

was thus returned to the United States. Commodore Perry, with his small fleet of nine ships defeated six British ships on September 10th - this was one of the most brilliant engagements of the war.

During the third year of the war both sides fought more stubbornly and the English with the close of the Napoleonic Wars were able to send more men over to fight. On July 5th the British were defeated again at Chippewa; and as a result, part of the British fleet left Niagara area and in August entered the Chesapeake Bay with 400 soldiers, led by General Ross they marched on Washington. They took the city and burned the capitol, executive mansion and a few other buildings. The government officials fled into the Virginia woods. In September this same British force was defeated at Baltimore and this battle gave us our national anthem - "The Star Spangled Banner".

England was nearly exhausted by the continuance of the Napoleonic Wars and several times had mentioned peace to the United States. In the summer of 1813, representatives from the two countries met at Ghent, Belgium and discussed peace. The treaty was signed on December 24, 1814, thus ending the War of 1812.

As previously mentioned the War of 1812 was primarily a sea battle, therefore the records show only seven men from Pembroke's West Parish (Hanson) taking part in the war:

John Thomas	Richard Everson
Benjamin Thomas	Nathaniel Cole
Seth Foster	John Cook
Benjamin Bowker	

HANSON IN THE MEXICAN WAR 1846 - 1848

The main cause of this was was the annexation of Texas in 1845. In 1836 Texas revolted from Mexico and became an independant republic, which was recognized by the U. S. in 1837. However, Mexico never did recognize their independance. There was constant friction between Texas and Mexico and Mexico warned the United States that if Texas joined the Union they would regard it as an act of war. Upon election, President Polk made this issue an important one. Texas claimed the Rio Grande as their western boundry and Mexico claiming the Nueces River, a stream 100 miles further east. About 2,000 square miles was in dispute and President Polk ordered General Zachary Taylor with 3,000 men to proceed to the Rio Grande from the Nueces River area. In doing so they met with resistance from the Mexicans and a small detachment of Americans were defeated. On May 8th and 9th American troops defeated the Mexican forces and on May 11th President Polk sent a message to Congress declaring that a state of war existed "through the act of Mexico herself". On May 13th 1846 Congress declared war. There were four major campaigns being the Rio Grande, Mexico City, California, and New Mexico. During the course of the war about 43,500 American soldiers served in Mexico or on the northern border, more than half were volunteers. The superior leadership and training of the American forces enabled them to win every battle, although they were met with superior numbers. The effects on Mexico were so disasterous that for sometime there was no authority with which

a treaty of peace could be negotiated. It was not until February 2, 1848, that the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed and not until May that it was ratified.

The records show very few men from this area and only two from Hanson as taking part in the Mexican War. They were:

Joseph C. Foster, Corporal, Co. K, 1st Mass. Volunteers
Caleb Howland, Private, Co. B, 18th Mass. Infantry

Corporal Joseph Foster was a member of the Washington Guards and was called into the First Massachusetts Volunteers in 1846. Corporal Foster won a medal in the Mexican War and was present at the surrender of Mexican General Santa Anna after the capture of Mexico City.

Foster was grandfather of Herbert Magoun of Hudson Street, Hanson.

HANSON IN THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR 1898

The Spanish-American War, a brief war lasting only one year in 1898 between Spain and the United States had a serious effect on the world. It grew from the injustice of the Spanish Colonial administration in Cuba. The policies governing Cuba were severe and the heavy taxation brought on serious financial problems. One revolt after another for self-government became more and more insistant, General Weyler the Spanish Governor resorted to extreme measures of imprisoning the Cuban people. They were grossly mistreated and underfed, the only t hing keeping many of them alive were the supplies from the United States. Reports of the atrocities had imflamed the feelings of the American people who were already fed up the misrule and anarchy almost at their doors.

President McKinley opposed recognition of the rebellion but when the U. S. Battleship "Maine" was blown up in Havana harbor in February 1898, war became inevitable. Congress demanded the withdrawal of Spain from Cuba but the Spanish government mismissed the message and declared war on April 24th. The war was primarily a sea engagement but with many small land battles such a group as Teddy Roosevelt's "Rough Riders" are remembered today.

The City of Santiago surrendered on July 17th with this the Spanish sued for peace; an agreement was made on August 12th and a treaty of peace was signed in Paris, France on December 10th, 1898. This treaty evacuated Cuba from Spanish rule and relinquished Porto Rico, the Philippines, and Guam to the U. S.

Hanson in the Spanish American War 1898 (Cont.)

The records show no enlistments from Hanson. However there were two men who served and were buried in Hanson. They were:

Essen O. Baker, 5th Regiment Infantry
Calvin Mixter, Jr., Co. D, 5th Regt. Infantry

Charles E. Staples of Hanson, enlisted in Charleston in the Marine Corps and was assigned to the U. S. S. Raleigh. He was a captain's orderly and had a good opportunity to witness Admiral Dewey's victory at Manila Bay, and described the battle fully in his letters home.

HANSON IN THE CIVIL WAR 1861 - 1865

The Civil War was a conflict between a divided people in the American republic growing out of the institution of slavery. After four years of war the North defeated the South who had upheld slavery. However, the South cannot be held responsible for slavery, for, from its beginning in America in 1619 by the Dutch its legality was recognized by the thirteen colonies. Slavwry was profitable in the South and unprofitable in the North. In 1820 the power in congress of the slave states and the free states was about equal, at least each was alert to prevent the other from obtaining more power politically. Neither North nor South can be censured for this attitude. The South was blamed by the North for attempting to push slavery into a part of the vast unoccupied national domain, but the South had a like charge against the North which sought to extend anti-slavery views into the same areas. With Lincoln winning the Presidential election in 1860, there was no comfort for the South, it was inevitable that they must secede from the Union. South Carolina was the first to secede in December of 1860 and ten others followed, the last being Tennessee in May of 1861. Thus there were eleven Confederate states opposed to twenty-two that remained in the Union.

By order of the South Carolina legislature, the federal ship bringing supplies to the Union garrison at Fort Sumpter was fired upon and forced to retire. The legislature declared that any further attempt to supply the fort would be considered an act of war. A fleet sent by President Lincoln to Fort Sumpter met with resistance during the trip and the Fort was

fired upon by Confederate forces before its arrival. Union Major Robert Anderson in command of the Fort, retired the garrison on April 14, 1861 with the honors of war.

The conflict appeared unequal at first with the resources of the North much greater than the South and the South having only one-fourth as many white men.

During the year 1861 the first serious engagement was on July 21st at Bull Run where the Confederates defeated the Union killing all hopes of the Union marching on Richmond. There was also much trouble with foreign powers, particularly England, running in supplies to the South. The United States took action against this by the capture of two men bound for England and nearly caused war with England.

In 1862 there was much fighting in the west and along the Mississippi River to break the Confederate supply line from the western states. It was in "62" that Admiral - then Captain - Farragut attacked the strong defenses of New Orleans with his fleet of fifty wooden ships and conquered the city. In the east General McLellan advanced to capture Richmond, but after many lesser engagements the Southern General Lee forced McLellan back to Washington and won the Second Battle of Bull Run. On September 17th at Antietam, one of the greatest battles of the war, Lee was driven back to Virginia. Because General McLellan did not press his advantage he was relieved of command and a number of other generals followed. Ulysses S. Grant was starting to make a name for himself at Fort Donelson and Shiloh.

Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862 throwing an altogether different light on the war.

The year 1863 saw the Union hammering their way to Richmond under the command of General Hooper. However, the battles to follow were not Union successes. General Lee emboldened by success, invaded the North, and at Gettysburg, one of the fifteen decisive battles of the war, was pushed back after three days of battles. This defeat marked the turning point of the war. The Union had taken over control of the Mississippi and now had the top hand.

In 1864 the Union encouraged by its victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg was determined to crush the Confederacy. Grant now in command sent General William T. Sherman on through the South to the sea to defeat Confederate General Johnston in Georgia. Sherman entered Atlanta in September and nearly destroyed it. Then began the famous "March to the sea" from Atlanta cutting a path right through the heart of the Confederacy. On December 22nd he captured Savannah and turned northward to unite with Grant on February of 1865. The fighting was hard that followed and Lee had retreated into Richmond and fortified himself. Grant circled the city and laid siege to the capitol. Lee was surrounded in Richmond with about 40,000 men and Grant, the besieger, with over 100,000 captured Petersburg on April 2, 1865. General Lee evacuated Richmond and the

capital was Grant's. Southern President Jefferson Davis escaped to North Carolina. On April 9th, Lee surrendered what remained of the Confederate Army at Appomattox Court House, 75 miles west of Richmond. The war cost the Union 360,000 casualties out of 2,667,000 men who actually saw service in the field. The Confederates lost 260,000 out of a total of about 1,400,000 enlistments.

During the war of the Rebellion, Hanson proved its loyalty to the Union, and promptly responded to every demand made by the government, including President Lincoln's first call for troops on April 15, 1861. These Hanson men were among the first to set foot on southern soil in April of '61 and were a part of the time-honored organization of "The Minute Men of '61". There can be no question that the arrival of the Third and Fourth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiments at Fortress Monroe, Virginia, saved that point from the attempted capture by the Confederacy. The Minute Men for the most part were recruited for only three months service but many continued their service throughout the entire war. Many of these men were born in Hanson. The first call for troops was issued April 15, 1861 and the last of the seven organizations recruited had left the state before April 21.

The most local of these regiments was the Third Mass. Regiment. Company A (Halifax Light Infantry) which recruited men from Halifax, Hanson, Pembroke, Duxbury, and some of the other surrounding towns.

The men in Company A from Hanson were:

Sargent, Theodore L. Bonney
Corporal, Frederick O. Everson
Privates - Morton V. Bonney
George H. Bourne
Alonzo Copen
Charles W. Corser
Ebenezer H. Gurney
Reuben Smith, Jr.
Edwin S. Thayer
Privates - Francis C. Hill
Jacob P. Hill
William W. Hood
Willard Howard
Jason Smith
Josiah Bourne

Hanson furnished fifteen men out of the 49 that were in Company A at the outset of the war.

Some of the Minute Men joined other militia outfits and were listed below:

Fourth Mass. Regiment - Co. E (S.Abington (Light Infantry)
Private John H. Perry

Company I (Lincoln Light Infantry)
Private William B. Harlow

Company L (Later Company C, 29th Regiment)
Privates Thomas G. Clark
Edward P. Mansfield

A total of 19 men from Hanson left as a result of President Lincoln's first call to fill the ranks.

The town had its representatives in many different regiments and in every department of the Army. Its soldiersl sharing the hardships of war in field, hospital and worse of all, the rebel prisons.

The records that we believe to be the most accurate show there were twenty-five men who served the call for nine-month volunteers. Many of these men were a part of the first volunteers and either re-enlisted or just stayed on in active service after their three-month enlistment was up. There were 85 men

who served as three-year volunteers and thirty that served as one-yearvolunteers. Also six Hanson men served in the 100-day volunteer enlistment.

The Navy claimed only three Hanson boys for service during the Civil War. They were - Albert S. Barker, Gustavus Percival, and Charles F. Bowman.

There were twenty Hanson men who lost their lives out of the 131 that served the Union. (Roster of men that served in the Civil War from Hanson by their term of service):

Three-Month Volunteers

Reuben Smith Jr.
Jason Smith
George H. Bourne
E. Henry Gurney
William W. Hood
Theodore L. Bonney
Jacob P. Hill
Willard Howard
Charles W. Corson
Frederic O. Everson
John H. Perry
Edwin S. Thayer
Morton V. Bonney
Alonzo Copen
William B. Harlow
Erastus W. Everson

Nine-Month Volunteers:

Seth M. Briggs
Charles H. Stetson
Isaiah Stetson
Benjamin H. Bearce
Thomas Gurney, II
William W. Hood
Augustus M. Sampson
Thomas W. Bourne
Josiah Bourne
Jacob P. Hill
Bernard C. Beal
Algernon A. Peterson
Lawrence McGoff
Thatcher Keene
John Drayton
Morton V. Bonney
Henry Cook
Andrew C. Brigham
Edwin B. Cook
Albert M. Thayer
Elbridge G. Fuller
Horatio N. Hood
Charles W. Whiting
John Brown
Edward Orcutt

Three-year Volunteers:

Charles W. Denham
Freeman P. Howland
Alonzo Copen
James H. Howland
Ichabod Bosworth
Augustus F. Elms
Henry W. Whitten
Thomas G. Clark, Jr.
Joseph E. Prouty
Steven Bates
Joseph L. Leavitt
John C. Ames
Andrew W. Fish
Joseph H. Everson
Josiah Bourne
John Barker
Orange S. Pratt
Daniel B. Doland
George T. Sampson
Samuel D. Ramsdell
Algernon J. White
Joshua L. Perkins
Seth F. Turner
Edward Smith
George S. Golbert
Horatio Foster
Henry L. Ewell
Francis C. Hill
Freeman J. Burney
Nathaniel T. Hatch
Benjamin H. Bearce
Isaac Bourne
Edwin W. Pratt
Cyrus Drew
David Kingman
Austin Luther
John Drayton
Philemon W. Ramsdell
Josiah G. Cook
Joseph B. Loring
L.Irvin Lane
Charles F. Stetson
George W. Hayward
Henry A. Soper
Herbert M. Luther
Andrew J. Shaw
Edward Y. Luther
Edward P. Mansfield
Jeremiah Stetson
Edwin L. Stetson
James Coolican
Joseph Smith
Theodore L. Bonney
Otis L. Bonney
Isaac Ramsdell
John Lyons
Julius W. Monroe
Joseph L. Fish
Marcus F. Ames
E. Henry Gurney
Nathaniel T. Howland
Thomas F. Whiting
Erastus W. Everson
John H. Perry
Thomas GurneyII
Daniel Bourne
Calvin T. Phillips
Thomas Drew
Thomas Drake
Edward Orcutt
Morton E. Hill
Joseph T. Bourne
Charles H. Reinhardt
John F. Curtis
John Jewett
Charles J. Noble
Louis C. Arnold
Daniel S. Smith
John Willis
Michael Tooney
George B. Everett
Jason Smith
Lorenzo T. Bates
Reuben Willis
Michael Donnelly

One-Year Volunteers:

John D. Stebbins
Robert B. Oakes
Elbridge G. Bates
Edward Holmes
Albert Howland
John Brown
Florin P. Estes
Edwin Clark
Joseph E. Prouty
Elijah T. Ford
Edward C. Tew
Charles C. Moore
William A. Lavender
John H. Page
John F. Clancy
Nathaniel D. W. Sprague
James P. Jordan
George T. Bowker
John O. Whitten
George T. Delano
Lyman B. Ramsdell
Gershom B. Thomas
James B. Soper
George W. Turner
John Bradley
Benjamin F. Morrill
Joseph Wilson
Napoleon Telliee
Simon Levis
George T. Sampson

100- Day Volunteers:

Edwin B. Cook
Joseph F. Bearce
Charles H. Stetson
Henry J. Perry
Gershom B. Thomas
Charles H. Sprague

Listed below are the twenty men who lost their lives in the Civil War:

Edward Smith
George S. Golbert
Henry L. Ewell
Joseph T. Bourne
James Coolican
Stephen Bates
Julius W. Monroe=
Andrew W. Fish
Edward P. Mansfield
Horatio Foster
John H. Perry
Thomas Drake
Daniel Bourne
Austin Luther
Morton E. Hill
Theodore L. Bonney
Augustus F. Elms
John Lyons
Joseph L. Fish
George Thompson

Prominent People of the Civil War Period:

Theodore Lyman Bonney for whom the Hanson Grand Army Post was named was a member of the Halifax Light Infantry Company prior to the war. While in the Halifax Company, he passed through the ranks and on July 9, 1860 he was commissioned 3rd Lietenant. On April 16, 1861 the 3rd Mass. Regiment was called

into service and the Halifax Company left with it as Co. A. The U. S. service not recognizing 3rd and 4th lieutenants, Bonney chose to stay in and was given the rank of sargent, in which capacity he served until he was mustered out in July. Anxious to do more for the defense of his country he re-enlisted in December of 1861, for three years, and became sargent in Company E of the First Mass. Infantry Battalion and saw service guarding rebel prisoners at Fort Warren. In May of 1862 he was promoted to Orderly Sargent and transferred to Company C, the battalion becoming the 32nd Mass. Regiment. The regiment joined the Army of the Potomac in July and Bonney saw service with the reggiment in the Peninsular campaign, escaped the second battle of Bull Run and on reaching Frederick, Maryland exhausted by a continued march of more than three weeks, he was sent back to a hospital in Washington. He later rejoined his regiment and took part in the Battle of Fredericksburg in which the regiment was exposed, without shelter, to the rebel fire for thirty hours. From Fredericksburg the regiment returned to Falmouth and spent the winter, with much suffering, in picket duty and reconnoitering. On the 27th of April the regiment moved forward to Chancellorsville where after several days of fighting they were forced again to cross the Rappahannock. It was during this retreat that Sargent Bonney, overcome by exposure and fatigue, sank by the way and was taken to a field hospital at Acquia Creek. After a short week of delirious fever he passed away on the 11th day of May, 1863.

Hanson in the Civil War (Cont.)

John Scates, last of the Civil War veterans residing in Hanson, enlisted at the first call for volunteers - in April 1861. In May he was mustered into the service as a member of Company G, First Mass. Infantry, which was attached to the Army of the Potomac. In time he was promoted to corporal and Sargent - being mustered out as sargent in May of 1864. He saw much active service, being in the engagements of Blackburn's Ford, First Bull Run, Yorktown, Williamsburg, Poplar Hill, White Oak Swamp, Fair Oaks, Peach Orchard, Savage Station, Malvern Hill, Bristoe Station, Wapping Heights, Kelley's Ford, Locust Grove, Mine Run. Brandy Station, Wilderness, Spottsylvania Court House, and also in the recruiting service in Boston. After the service he came back to Massachusetts and found work, remaining here in Boston until 1884 when he went to Minneapolis Minnesota. Spending only one year in Minnesota he returned in 1885 and settled down in Hanson. He was engaged in farming and lumber and held the office of Town Clerk for many years. From 1880 to 1881 he was Aide de Camp and member of the Council of Administration for the G.A.R. He was very active in Grand Army affairs, joining in 1870 in Boston, he was commander of Post No.7, Boston and of the T. L. Bonney Post No.127 in Hanson. Scates filled the commander's chair of the Hanson Post continually for 19 years starting in 1903. It is a fact that when all the other veterans were gone he would open the meetings, take up the business of each chair, and close the meeting all by himself to keep alive the spirit of the Grand Army in Hanson.

Hanson in the Civil War (Cont.)

Albert L. Dame of Hanson, a gray-haired, sturdy veteran of the Civil War, was introduced to President Taft in October of 1912, at the State Armory in Salem at the dedication of a tablet erected to the memory of 84 officers and men of the First Regiment Heavy Artillery, Mass. [Volunteer Militia. Dame was called unexpectedly from the ranks of his comrades and introduced to Taft as the man who performed one of the most daring deeds of the war. He saved the regimental colors amid a rain of shot after the color-bearer had been shot down at Strawberry Plain.

They asked him to say a few words and he electrified the armory with the following: "We fought for the flag, Mr. President, and for that flag only, and we swore to defend it. As old as we are now, we will rally to its defense again and not see it sullied in Massachusetts, Essex County, or elsewhere!"

THE BETWEEN WAR PERIOD OF HANSON'S MILITARY HISTORY

About the time of the incorporation of the town (1820) the Hanson Light Infantry was formed, chiefly through the influence of Nathaniel Collamore, who was commissioned captain, with Ebenezer B. Keen as lieutenant and Nathaniel Wales as ensign.

It was about this time the Mr. E. B. K. Gurney, who was born with a talent for music, began his musical and military career. On his 12th birthday in September of 1820 he joined Capt. Job. Luther's militia company of Hanson as a fifer. At the age of 15 he, as a member of a brigade band, warranted by General Ephraim Ward of Middleborough, and also held a musicians warrant from Colonel Jesse Reed of Marshfield. In 1845 while captain of Co. C of the 3rd Regiment, known as the Washington Guards, he organized a brass band among its members.

In the fall of 1836 a second light infantry company was formed in the south part of town, its members in part belonging to other towns. This company had its armory at Martin Bryant's Hall in Pembroke.

It was called the Washington Guards and its commanding officers were: Daniel Collins, William D. Bearce, E.B.K. Gurney, and W.H.H. Bryant. The first parade was made in May 1837. The muster-roll of the Guards nembered 82 names. In 1847 it was decided to petition for disbandment, which was granted.

The Between War Period of Hanson's Military History (Cont.)

When the Washington Guards were originally formed in 1810 it was an artillery company under the name of Washington Artillery At the outbreak of the Civil War it was activated again in Boston, this time as Company K of the 6th Massachusetts Regiment (Washington Light Guard). At this time however, its home was Boston and they did not recruit any local men. All of the enlistments for the Civil War being from Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, and West Roxbury. The end of the Civil War also brought to an end the Washington Guards as an organized company.

After the disbandment of the Washington Guards in 1847 there was no organized military group in Hanson until the Civil War.

HANSON IN WORLD WAR I 1914 - 1918

World War I was many times called the war of the nations. This struggle engaged in by more than twenty nations, was, until the outbreak of World War II in 1939, unmatched in history for its enormous character. A total of the wards of a thousand years, summed up in all their horrors, cannot equal the cost, destruction, and misery of this conflict which commenced on July 28th in the year, 1914. The world still suffers from the catastrophe and to its after-effects many of the chief causes of World War II can be traced.

While the embattled nations were engaged in the great struggle, and tragedy spread over Europe, all the evil passions of humanity were among them. To give a truer proportion of the far-flung battle line, we note that in 1914 there were sixteen declarations of war among different nations, in 1915 there were eight, 1916 brought seven more and in 1917 the United States declared war on Germany, along with nine other nations. Not all of the nations declared war with the expectation of active participation in it on European battle-fields. Some were actuated by the political aim of giving support to friendly powers, as for example, Panama, where the United States has immense interests; Cuba, in sympathy with the United States and to prevent German espionage on its soil; China, in remembrance of German ill treatment during the Boxer uprising and for territorial seizures. In addition to the actual declarations of war there were ten other nations that severed relations with Germany in 1917 and 1918, because

of injuries sustained or to give moral support to other nations.

The United States did not declare a state of war with Turkey and Bulgaria, though much pressure was exerted in behalf of such action. But Turkey's relations were broken with America on April 20, 1917, after a state of war was declared with its principal ally. The so-called Germanic powers were: Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, Turkey, and the German Empire.

After four years of the horrors of war and on May 7th 1918, the stupendous labors of the Peace Conference were concluded, and on the afternoon of that day, the two German commissioners were given a copy of the treaty for the consideration of their government. Diplomatic exchanges followed, during which Germany sought relief from many of the penalties imposed, and its commissioners resigned, to be replaced by others. The actual signing of the Armistice did not occur until June 28th. Treaties with Austria, Bulgaria, and Turkey followed in the years immediately following.

Hanson in World War I (Cont.)

The Hanson men that enlisted in this great world conflict were as follows:

1913: Robert A. Bearce

1915: Edgar Thomas
Parker Wilson
Harvey Ferris
Harry Edson

1916: Walter St.George
Joseph King
Frank A. Dowlar
Harold S. O'Brien

1917:
Gaspare E. Lentine
Walter R. Richards
John G. Weeden
Fred R. Brown
Harold Cudworth
Nicholas Russo
Ralph K. Harley
Carlos J. Reed
Verne Severance
Robert Faux
Arthur Rogers
Chester H. Hammond
Albert J. Cantara
Hiram Rogers
George C. Richards
Walter H. Veo
Andrew J. Weeden
Arving Anthony Hammond
Wilson S. Brown
Frederick S. Armstrong
Howard F. Willis
Chester W. Turner
Benjamin H. Bearce
John J. McLaughlin
Chester Sampson
Linus B. Hogue
John Abbott

1918:
Albert C. Burrage, Jr.
Ernest E. Oldreive
David A. Josselyn
Henry D. Hammond
John M. Sturtevant
Merton G. Howard
Wilbur B. Tarr
Robert McLaughlin
Howard J. Everson
Theodore I. Hall
Raleigh Daley
Vernon Hayward
Sebato Deminico
Gilbert W. Hammond
Hollis W. Ibbitson
Arthur F. Richards
George R. Skillins
Harold W. Churchill
James Murray Hart

No town record of date of enlistment:
Urban Boulanger - British Exp.Forces
James E. Magoun - Enlisted in Europe
Chester L. Besse - In at time of War
Wesley F. Besse
Dolar A. Cote
Roland Ford
Howard Sampson
Harrie Parker
George A. Faulkner
Esson Baker
Elton B. Thomas

Robert J. Potrie
Gerhard Baresel
Edgar A. Churchill
Mamford Schoales
Edward Haven
Milton W. Bacon
Ernest W. Churchill
Jack C. Sauppe
Joseph Ferroli

There were two men from Hanson who lost their lives in World War I. They were Harold S. O'Brien of the 1st Contruction Battalion and John Abbott a member of the 327th Infantry Regiment.

Winona Robbins was the only woman in the service from Hanson during the First World War. She was an Army Nurse. After the war she became the only woman member of the American Legion in town.

It is interesting to know that Albert C. Read who left the town to attend the Naval Academy, from which he graduated in 1906, was the first person to fly a plane across the Atlantic ocean. On May 16, 1919, Commander Read and his crew flew a Navy Seaplan NC-4 from the United States to Newfoundland then to the Azores, finally landing in Lisbon, Portugal on May 27, 1919. When questioned on being the first man to fly across the ocean he said jokingly, "As I rode in the cockpit and got out first I suppose I was a little ahead of the other fellows."

During the war there was a great deal of activity on the homefront. Many of the townspeople were actively engaged in the Committee of Public Safety during the years 1917 and 1918.

The records show that on April 16, 1917, at the request of Mayor Williamson of Brockton, acting under advises from State authorities, a public meeting was held in the Town Hall for the purpose of organizing a Committee on Public Safety. A committee of seven was chosen and were designated "Executive Committee on Public Safety". The following were members: Fred W. Howland, N. C. Percy Brown, Harold S. Conant, and Dana M. Pratt. Sub-committees were chosen for finance, special aid, food, publicity, hygiene, and sanitation, recruiting, home guard, horses, motors and trucks, aindustrial survey, and home protection. These committees held a membership of nearly 100 people.

Some of the work of the various committees were such things as Liberty loan drives, presented a resolution favoring national Prohibition during the war, asked congressman to secure government control of food supplies, presented a resolution to subject aliens to the draft, aided families in planting their gardens, conducted a public testimonial in the Town Hall for the "Boys of '17", canvass d town for War Library Fund, Soldier's Y.M.C.A., Red Cross, assisted in 2nd Liberty Loan drive, active in securing sugar and fuel for the town and were responsible for the pictures of the "Boys of '17" to be printed in the Town Report.

The Special Aid ladies met weekly and furnished our boys with many useful articles, sweaters, helmets, scarfs, socks, bandages, etc. They also saw that each Hanson man had a complete outfit. The Home Guard Committee organized Co.N-133rd Regiment Mass. State Guard with three officers and Sixty-three enlisted men. The company was mustered into the service of the State August 6, 1917 and held weekly drills either at the Town Hall or Burrage Field. Besides this they collected 3/4 of the subscription of Hanson in the 2nd Liberty Loan Drive

The Finance Committee raised all necessary funds for expenses, the Publicity Committee kept the work of all the committees before the public, the Food &nd Fuel representatives were in Boston repeatedly to lessen the shortage of sugar and fuel, Hygiene and Sanitation had a small corp of nurses ready to volunteer for emergencies, the recruiting committee listed all men of draft age and was active on Liberty Loan Drives, and the Motor and Truck committee listed forty automobiles pledged for State service if needed.

During 1918 the Committees held fifteen meetings. There wasn't much activity this year except for the committees on Food production, Conservation and Fueld who acted largely under the direction of the State authorities. Through the efforts of the Committee on Service flag and Honor Roll with the names of all men in the service inscribed thereon were secured for display.

As a result of the signing of the Armistice, denoting for all practical purposes the winning of the war by the Allies and acting in consonance with the State Public Safety Committee, this committee at its meeting on December 14, 1918, after closing its affairs by the appointment of sub-committees for that purpose voted to adjourn, after having incorporated in its records the results of the 4th Liberty Loan, reports of the War Service, Red Cross, and other drives in the town that year. With this action taken the Committee on Public Safety officially disbanded.

HANSON IN WORLD WAR II 1939 - 1945
(United States participation 1941 - 1945)

With Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939 there was started what was soon to be a second World War.

Europe was the early theater of conflict; but the fighting rapidly spread over more of the earth's surface than in any of the world's previous conflicts.

The war raged in the deserts and jungles of Africa. It drew into battle the young men of Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. In Asia, the battles spread to Syria, Iraq, and Iran. The war between Japan and China, in progress since 1937, became part of this larger conflict. Then in December of 1941, Japan - striking for domination of the entire Pacific - ruthlessly invaded the U. S. fleet at Pearl Harbor and drew the United States into the war. For the first three years the tide of victory was almost wholly in favor of Germany and the nations joined with her. However toward the end of 1942 the Allies first halted further Axis expansion, then began to close in. On May 8, 1945 Germany finally surrendered, and Japan after two atomic bombings, the first on August 6th at Hiroshima and the second three days later at Nagasaki, accepted the allied surrender terms on August 15, 1945.

Japan's surrender brought a world-wide wave of relief. But it also unleashed the usual aftermath of dissension and striving for postwar advantages. The first open dissent came when the foreign secretaries of Great Britain, Russia,

China, France, and American Secretary of State Byrnes met in London - starting September 11, 1945 - to draft peace treaties with Italy, Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Finland. But after three weeks spent in disputes, the conference adjourned without result.

Russia demanded a share of Japan but U. S. General MacArthur was given the sole control of the administration of Japan. Russia imposed control on part of Sakhalin Island and Kurils, former Japanese possessions. It shared occupation of Korea with the United States, but agreed to withdraw from Manchuria in favor of China in return for Chinese recognition of independence for outer Mongolia.

There were constant problems of reconstruction in the years following the end of the war in which many of the countries of the world were fighting for their part of the occupation of the various defeated countries. It wasn't until 1951 that the majority of settlements were made, the last being the splitting of Germany to the United States and Rusia. This aftermath of war is still with us today, more than a decade after the first peace treaty was signed, with many of the same powers still battling for control of other countries and worldly recognition.

Hanson more than fulfilled their quotas during World War II furnishing 322 men - nine of whom lost their lives in the service of their country.

Hanson received a notice from the state on May 1, 1941 to organize a State Guard Reserve Company in the town if the selectmen felt it was necessary for the protection of persons and property in case of an emergency. A public meeting was held and it was decided to organize the company. Any male person 18 to 50 years of age, not in class 1-A Selective Service Act was eligible to enlist.

On May 16, 1941 we received authorization from the state to form a unit, to be known as Company 10, Massachusetts State Guard Reserves. On August 27th the company was accepted as a unit of the Military forces of the Commonwealth. The mission of the Company being to repell air or water-born enemy invasion, to assist civil authority in suppression of insurrection, tumult, or civil disturbances and to protect property in case of public catastrophe. The Company was to consist of 45 enlisted men and three officers, with the Town Hall as headquarters.

In June, Harris F. Parker, 1st Lieutenant, Infantry was designated as Recruiting Officer, M.S.G.R. Lieutenant Parker received the rank of Captain, M.S.G.R. and immediately recruited the 45 men and a request was made for state recognition.

The Company was inspected by 1st Lieutenant Charles T. Nicoll, assisted by Private Robert C. Andrews, of Company M, 25th Regiment Mass. State Guard.

On August 27th, 1941 the company received State recognition.

In December the town purchased uniforms for the unit and weekly drills were held every Monday evening at the Town Hall parking area. When the summer months came on the men purchased lighter weight uniforms with their own funds. The company being up to authorized strength and there being a waiting list already a request for an increase was made to the state.

During this year the Hanson Legion Post presented a Guidon to the company with which to identify the unit when on the street or in the field.

In 1942 at the Town Meeting the sum of $500.00 was voted for the purchase of equipment and ammunition for the company. It was necessary at this time to establish immediate interior security, the table of organization was changed from that of Military Police to that of Rifle Company. The authorized strength of such a unit is 61 enlisted men and three officers. For reasons of security there was no publication as to the type of weapons and other equipment in possession of the organization. Fourteen men left to join the Federal Forces most of which held ratings due to their State Guard training.

On December 1, 1943 the Hanson Company was re-designated by orders of the Adjutant General as the 15th Company, 4th Battalion, 25th Infantry. During the year the company managed

to keep a strength of 54 enlisted men and three officers. Because of the changing conditions of the war at this time the training was further intensified to meet such changes as they might occur. Manoeuvers were carried out against the U. S. Army troops and other units of the State Guard and a two-day encampment was held. All the men were required to fire all ordnance weapons at Wakefield Rifle Range and four qualified as experts, 15 as sharpshooters and 26 as marksman with small arms. There were other activities this year such as the installation of a short wave radio receiver and transmitter, chemical warfare instructions, and qualification and the indoor rifle range was in process in the basement of Wampatuck Hall.

In 1944 the company spent a week in August at Camp Chase, Hingham where they received intensive military training. Every man was now equipped with regulation U.S. Army uniforms, ordnance and field equipment furnished by the State. The small arms range at Wampatuck Hall was now completed and 94% of the company had qualified. In April qualifications with the 30 caliber rifle and submachine guns took place with many of the men qualifing.

With the termination of the war with Germany and Japan in 1945, the responsibilities and necessity of the Mass. State Guard had actually increased. The War Department and Adjutant General of Massachusetts had requested the State Guard units to carry on until an Act of Congress could re-establish the National Guard which under present plans would be about four

times as strong as pre-war strength.

The company was commended by the War Department for excellence at the Federal Inspection March 15, 1945 and was expected to convert into a fine National Guard unit had this ever materialized in this area. Due to the fact that a National Guard Unit was not organized in the vicinity, the State Guard Unit disbanded later in the year.

The year 1941 brought about the organizing of two committees, The Committee on Public Safety and The Air Raid Precautions Committee. These two committees represented the entire defense set-up for the town.

Major Harley J. Scott was chairman of the Committee of Public Safety with the following people making up the committee:

Robert C. Andres	John Ibbitson
Hannah M. Baker	Patricia Lewis
Catherine A. Berigan	Norman MacDonald
Urbain Boulanger	Harrie Parker
Ralph K. Harley	Philip Robichand

The Air Raid Precautions Committee was headed by Harrie Parker as Chief Warden and Daniel Lewis as Chief Deputy Warden. The following were members:

James Converse	Samuel King
Henry DiMestico	Patricia Lewis
Louis George	Kenneth McKenzie
Harold F. Johnson	Walter Nealy
Marjorie Hopkins	Charles Roby
Raymond E. Hopkins	Carl Reed
Philip Robichand	Alvin Reid

Major Harley J. Scott

The first meeting of the Committee on Public Safety was held at the Town Hall on March 11, 1941, after which many steps were taken for the protection of lives and property in the town in case of enemy attack.

Various individuals were sent to such schools as Women's Defense, Air Raid Precautions, First Aid, Gas, Motor Corps, and others. Many of these people received certificates in their respective subjects and trained others in the community for various jobs. First Aid stations were set up in different parts of the town and were all equipped. Twenty men and two women received certificates as full-fledged Air Raid Wardens and were assigned to their respective neighborhoods. Maps were prepared showing where the wardens' areas were, first aid stations, etc. Each family in town was supplied with information concerning what to do in the event of an air raid.

During 1942 many classes for women were conducted such as home nursing, canning food, health and other. On October 19th the name of the Women's Division was officially changed to that of "War Services Division". During the month of December the "Block Plan" was put intoeffect. This was a plan to assure total coverage of every household by assigning a sector or block of the town to each of the forty chosen "Block Leaders". There were many practices and alerts during the year. Also in 1942, aides to the Public Safety Committee were appointed, there were sixteen in number and covered the following categories: Evacuation officer and assistant, Transportation,

Housing, Welfare, Medical, Bomb Reconnaissance, Decontamination, Rehabilitation, Services and Supplies, Fuel Supply, Wood fuel production, Identification, Property and Black-out Officer.

Dne of the Plymouth County Hospital buildings at 160 High Street was used as the Report Center which up to this point had been at the Town Hall. The whistles on the various industries in town - such as the Cranberry Plant, Hospital, Wheeler Reflector were used as air raid signals. A new signal was set up on Wolkey's Store. With all of these sirens in operation, the alert could be heard all over town. A salvage committee was also appointed with Robert Wolkey as chairman and three other menbers. This committee collected approximately 75 tons of scrap metal and 500 tires during one year.

Daniel Lewis was appointed chairman of the Committee of Public Safety with the passing of Major Harley J. Scott, the real organizer of the committee. Later Raymond E. Hopkins was named Chief Warden and Levi Lincoln as deputy of the Air Raid Committee.

In 1943 there were again many alerts, test raids, and practice black-outs conducted by the state. All services handled their assignments well. This year the Victory gardens were stressed as all important. Many other activities such as first aid classes, salvage collections were carried on as usual. The Girl Scouts collected two tons of tin cans.

Hanson made a better showing on fat salvage this year than any of the other towns, this being entirely up to the housewife.

On March 26, 1944 all Air Raid Precaution services were called out for the state-wide black-out. Everything went well. All services were called out again in September because of the approaching hurricane, The Report Center at 160 High Street was now being shared with the Visiting Nurse Association, but the telephone room and Operations room remained intact so long as there was still danger from German submarines or "Buzz Bombs."

In 1945 the Committees were more or less in a stand-by stage until dissolved by vote of the Board of Selectmen who shortly after V.E. Day on advise of the committee and Belief that the emergency was over, discontinued its activities.

The town owes a lot to the services rendered by these committees during World War II. Their volunteer service was typical of our American people in times when it was most needed.

Honor Roll of the men and women from Hanson
who served their country in World War II

John O. Anderson
Albert R. Atwood
Benjamin W. Atwood
Chester W. Atwood
Harold F. Atwood
Horace C. Atwood
Leo E. Aubert
Albe t L. Baker
Paul H. Baker
Pauline Baker
Robert W. Baker
Stanley M. Baker
Warren S. Baker, Jr.
Henry A. Balboni=
Karl G. Baresel
Robert H. Baresel
Ellis L. Barnes, Jr.
Harry S. Barnes
Richard A. Barriault
Ralph P. Basler
Roy W. Basler
Albert S. Bates, Jr.
John F. Bellrose
Peter E. Benson, Jr.
Elizabeth Berigan
Manley J. Butterfield
Thomas S. Butterfield
Wayne M. Butterfield
John A. Cameron, Jr.
Henry A. Cantara
George H. Carter
Allan L. Chamberlain
Warren C. Chamberlain
John M. Chandler
Elton R. Chetwynd
Everett W. Churchill
Joseph F. Clancy
Lawrence N. Clark
William Coit, Jr.
Basil M. Cole
Leonard M. Cole
Robert L. Collins
James M. Conway, Jr.
Hildo J. Carreia
Luis Carreia
Francis H. Cox
James H. Craig
Stephen C. Croghan, Jr.
Walter L. Currier, Jr.
Chester J. Deigle

William H. Berigan
Donald A. Berry
Vernon F. Bevan
David Binns
Frederic W. Binns
Ralph H. Binns, III
Joseph L. Bishop
Lawrence H. Bishop
Napoleon T. Bishop
Harry R. Black
Paul H. Bostwick
Raymond Bostwick
Donald E. Brine
Richard B. Brine
Thomas P. Brine
Garland G. Brooks
Allan M. Brown
Edward J. Brown
George S. Brown
Percy E. Brown, Jr.
Robert Francis Brown
Robert Frederick Brown
Wendell D. Brown
Lloyd V. Bump
Wallace C. Darsch
Leo M. DeGrasse, Jr.
Russell DePasqua
Albert P. Desbiens
Louis E. Dewar
William B. Drayton
John E. Drayton
Henry W. Eayrs
Robert S. Ellis
Warren C. Ellis
Howard E. Estes
Walter F. Estes
William L. Estes, Jr.
Wendel W. Farley
William J. Farrell, Jr.
Daniel Ferguson
Thomas J. Ferguson
Cosmo A. Ferrante
George E. Ferris
Edmund W. Ford
George C. Ford, Jr.
Albert E. Freeman
Leo C. Freeman
David J. Fremault
Joseph D. Fremault
James L. Gallagher

Hanson in World War II (Cont.)

John W. Daley
Kenneth J. Daley, Jr
Ethel Mae Gaudette
Jacqueline Gaudette
John R. Geddes
Orlando Giammarco
James J. Gomes
Charles C. Goodwin
Ralph A. Gorham
Herman G. Garrill
Lorne W. Gorrill
Wendell L. Gorrill
William R. Gorrill
Ralph E. Hall
Clifford A. Hammond
Irving A. Hammond
James Hammond
Richard H. Hammond
Warren S. Hammond
William A. Hammond
Andrew O. Haraldstad
Wayne P. Hardy
Ralph K. Harley, Jr.
Theodore F. Harrington
Louis E. Hartley
Russell T. Hatch
George J. Hewis
Edward C. Hill
William F. Hopkins
Francis King
Russell L. King
Frank I. Kingman
John C. K'Sepka
Edwin L. Lahey
Eleanor Lamborghini
Clyde E. Lane
Marshall O. Lane
Malcolm R. Lavalley
James L. Leslie
John P. LeVangie
Antonio Lima, Jr.
Forrest C. Lingham
Robert W. Lingham
Roy F. Littlehale, Jr.
Richard F. Litton
Clifton W. Locke
Ernest J. Longo
Franklin E. Longo
Marcus Lowell
Arthur R. Lurvey
John F. Lynch

Dorothy Gaudette
Russell W. Howard
Calvin P. Howland
Corydon M. Howland
Henry E. Howland
Paul C. Howland
Albert F. Huntress
David R. Ibbitson
Harold R. Ibbitson
Ira W. Ibbitson
Robert H. Ibbitson
Daniel N. Irving
John W. Irving
Willard F. Irving
William E. Isaacson
Ronald S. Jenness
Robert C. Jenness
Edward W. Johnson
Arthur A. Jokinen
Edwin M. Jokinen
Taisto H. Jokinen
Lawrence Joy=
Harry L. Jurkiewicz
Muriel Keene
Ralph A. Keene
Thomas Kelley
Vincent R. Kelley
Robert S. Kendrick
Clyde N. MacKenzie
Kenneth N. MacKenzie
Norman D. MacLellan
Kenneth D. MacSween
Robert I. Maddigan
Robert J. Mahoney
Onni A. Maki
Frank L. Mangano
James V. Mangano
Letterio L. Mangano
Guy Marden, Jr.
Louis Marden
Edgar C. McClellan
James E. McDuffy
Bernard L. McLaughlin
John W. Merriam
Harold C. Metcalf
Leslie J. Milne
Ralph G. Milne
Clenieth R. Mitchell, Jr.
Frederick Neilson
Phillip A. Neilson
Edward R. Nelligan

Hanson in World War II (Cont.)

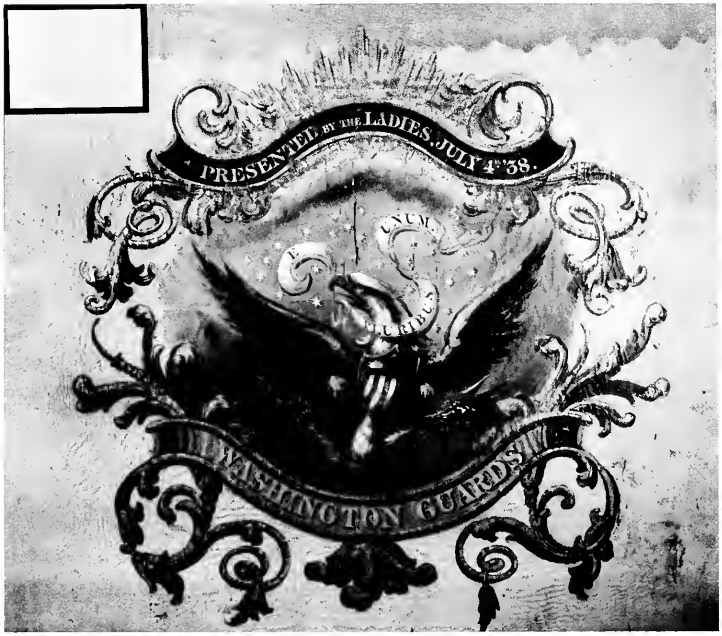
Richard L. Lynch
Howard M. MacCleave, Jr.
John E. MacDonald
William F. MacDonald
Jerome A. Nyland
Charles A. Oertel, Jr.
Edward K. O'Neil
Stanley A. Paul
Hugh R. Peck
Curtis C. Pierce
Herbert A. Pierce
Wilfred C. Pierce
Frank C. Pina, Jr.
John E. Potter
Ashton H. Poole
Lloyd C. Prario
Albert C. Read
Thomas Reading
Phillis H. Reardon
Francis C. Reed
Gerald F. Reed
John G. Reynolds
Leo H. Rich
Arthur F. Richards, Jr.
George C. Richards, Jr.
Laura M. Richards
Leslie R. Richards
Walter J. Richards
Robert C. Richardson
Frank A. Riddell
James D. Riddell
Charles R. Shurtleff
Natalie P. Silvertri
Anthony Silvia
Charles F. Slaney
Donald W. Sleeper
Walter A. Smith
Edwin B. Snell
Robert M. Snodgrass
Andrew Spinola
Charles R. Staneck
Stanley N. Stetson
Charles L. Stokes
Clifton R. Strathern
George E. Strathern, Jr.
George D. Sturtevant
Daniel J. Sullivan
William J. Sullivan
Norman F. Tassinari
Clarence C. Taylor
James F. Taylor
Walter O. Taylor

Elwood B. Nichols
Leo M. Nihill
Axel A. Nummi
Leo. O. Nurmi
Robert E. Riddell
Hope N. Ridley
Lemuel D. Robbins
Margaret S. Robbins
Henry W. Roberts
Philip J. Robichaud
William S. Robinson
Lowell V. Rosenberg
Evariste J. Ruel, Jr.
Frank G. Rummill
Mary J. Russo
Leo G. Sangiolo
Domingo Santos
George A. Santos
John Santos
Paul C. Sanville
Albert E. Sayce
Charles E. Sayce
George Sayce
Herbert E. Sayce
Richard A. Sayce
Russell F. Sayce
Wallace S. Sayce
William A. Severse, Jr.
Albert W. Shay
Robert F. Shay
Edward J. Shea
William L. Treat
Leslie N. Turner, Jr.
Nelson A. Vigneault
William L. Vigneault
George H. Vining
Thomas E. Walkey
William R. Walkey
Clarence H. Warwick
Walter C. Webb
Wilbur H. Webb
Chester L. Weeden
James T. Welch
Everett N. Wetzell
Ralph M. Wentzell
Arthur B. Wheeler
Roy E. Wheeler
Clement A. White
Henry D. White
Leroy A. White
Donald A. Whitman
Herbert I. Williams, Jr.

Stanley W. Thomas
Walter A. Thomas, Jr.
Stanton G. Thorp
Earl W. Torrey
Harold R. Torrey
Shirley W. Towne
John F. Willis

Listed below are the nine men from Hanson who lost their lives during World War II:

Brandon B. Bodell
Albert Goodman
Elmer R. Hammond
Harold E. Hatch
Ernest V. Irving
David C. Miller
Carl W. Nyland, Jr.
George H. Sayce
Fred Yetsook



Local Militia Flag of the "Washington Guards"

Hanson's only organized Militia 1836 - 1847

MILITARY

Martin Bryant's Hall - Bryantville Center

Used by the Washington Guards as their armory

Early Hanson Relic

Military Drum

(War of 1812)

THE AMERICAN UNION

FOREVER!

PATRIOTS!

RALLY TO THE STANDARD!

THE HALIFAX LIGHT INFANTRY

Have offered their services to the Government for nine months, and it is highly necessary that its ranks should be at once recruited to the maximum standard.

This organization is the oldest in the State, and was chartered by

JOHN HANCOCK

in 1792. It served in the War of 1812, and was among the first to respond to the call of the President, April 16th, 1861.

Volunteers from Halifax, Hanson, Hanover, Duxbury, Pembroke and other adjoining Towns are invited to enlist without delay. Each Town from whence recruits are received will be credited for every man, and they will be mustered in as part of the quota of the Town in which they reside. The vacancy caused by the promotion of LIEUT. C. P. LYON to the Captaincy will not be filled until the Roll is complete.

RECRUITING OFFICE, AT THE TOWN HOUSE, HALIFAX.

C. P. LYON, N. MORTON, } Recruiting Officers.

Halifax, August 25, 1862.

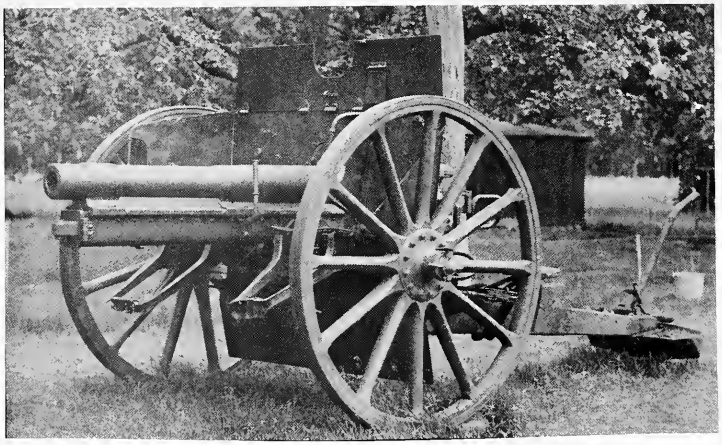
Local Civil War Recruiting Poster

Most Hanson volunteers joined this company in the early part of the war. It was Co. A of the 3rd. Mass. Regiment

Last of the Grand Army Veterans

Memorial Day early 1900's

MILITARY



German Howitzer obtained by the Legion in 1926 and

later donated for scrap metal in World War II

(Originally stood side of the Legion Hall, Robinson St.)

Taken as a prize of war by Isaac Magoun

at Vera Cruz during the Mexican War 1846 - 1848

Civil War Militia uniform worn by the

3rd. Mass. Regt. to which many of

Hanson's men belonged

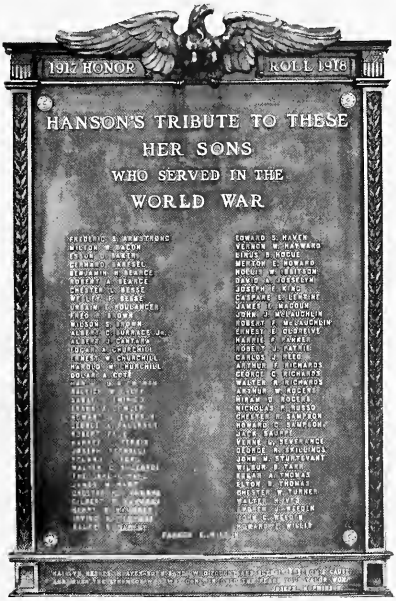
Portions of this uniform were worn

by Pvt. Nathaniel Hatch of Hanson

during the Civil War in the 3rd. Mass. Cavalry

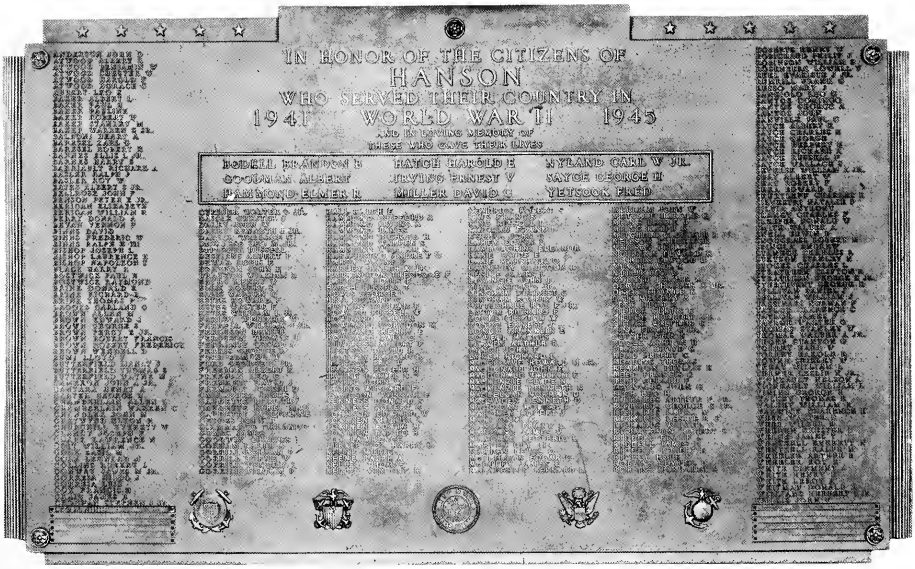
Hanson Civil War Soldiers Manument

erected 1925 (Town Hall Grounds)



World War I Memorial Plaque

(Memorial Auditorium, Indian Head School)



World War II Memorial Plaque

(Memorial Auditorium, Indian Head School)

Granite Memorial to honor

Hanson's Unreturned of all Wars

(Fern Hill Cemetery)

PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE

PROMINENT MEN OF HANSON

In the history of a town there are many prominent and famouse men who in some way, however large or small, leave their mark on the future of that town. Among these are doctors, dentists, lawyers, and statesmen.

The first physician to settle in what is now Hanson, was Dr. Gad Hitchcock, the only son of Rev. Gad Hitchcock and Dorothy Angier Hitchcock. He was born on November 2, 1749. He attended Harvard LCollege where he studied medicine, graduating in 1768. He married Sagie Bailey of Hanover, the daughter of Colonel John Bailey, and they had twelve children. He settled on his father's estate in the house which stands at the corner of High Street and County Road, known as the Gad Hitchcock House, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. William Walkey. There was a closet in this house at the head of the front stairs which was know as the "skeleton closet", because it was there that Dr. Hitchcock hung his skeletons. Dr. Hitchcock practiced in Hanson for many years until his advancing age compelled him to retire from active practice. He was followed by his son-in-law, Dr. Calvin Tilden. Dr. Hitchcock was a surgeon in the Revolutionary War. He was the first school committee of the town, and he is said to have been "a man of much dignity, highly educated, and one who exerted great influence for the moral and intellectual education of the young". He died on November 29, 1835.

Dr. Calvin Tilden was born in Marshfield on September 29, 1774. He was the son of Deacon Samuel Tilden and Mercy Hatch Tilden. He was a descendent of Elder Nathaniel Tilden. He attended Brown University and graduated from there in 1800. He studied medicine with Dr. Gad Hitchcock, and in 1804 he married his daughter, Catherine. They had eleven children, three of whom died in infancy. After their marriage he and Catherine went to Yarmouth where he began practicing as a physician. After a few years he returned to what is known now as Hanson to take over the medical practice of his father-in-law, Dr. Gad Hitchcock, who was growing too old to continue his active practice. He moved into the old Gad Hitchcock parsonage from which he continued to serve the people as the physician until his death June 28, 1832 - two and one half years before the death of his father-in-law, Dr. Gad Hitchcock. He had been a valuable citizen, and an understanding friend, and a good doctor to the townspeople of the West Parish and later the Town of Hanson.

Another physician who came to what is now Hanson while Dr. Gad Hitchcock was carrying on his medical practice was Dr. Samuel Barker. He was born in 1762, the son of Captain Samuel Barker and Deborah Gorham Barker. He began practicing medicine in 1785. He came to Hanson from Scituate, having been a surgeon in the U. S. Navy during the Revolutionary War. After he settled in Hanson, he gave up his profession as a medical doctor for the most part to become an instructor in

navigation and surveying.

In 1820 Dr. Cartier, a Frenchman from Martinique, came to Hanson from Hanover where he had spent seven years. He had only a small practice being somewhat advanced in years. He was rather eccentric, fond of music, and played the violin which he carried with him when he visited his patients. It was said of him that "he enlivened more with his music than his medicine". During his stay in Hanson he boarded at Captain Nathaniel Sopers'. He later returned to Martinique.

After the death of Dr. Calvin Tilden in 1832, Dr. Bowdoin came to Hanson to practice medicine. He remained only for three years. His name was originally Tower, but he changed it to Bowdoin to please his wife. Later, he had to change it back to Tower in order to legalize his claim to some property.

Hanson's "Country Doctor" was Dr. Bowen Barker who for forty years went among the people of the town ministering to their ills. He was the son of Isaac Bowen and Elizabeth (Torrey) Barker and was born on March 11, 1800. He graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1824, and then he studied under Dr. Calvin Tilden. He began practicing medicine in Newton in 1825. He was beginning to win some recognition as a doctor when ill health obliged him to return home to Hanson. He had suffered a hemorrhage of the lungs. After recovering sufficiently from his illness, he began practicing in his own town of Hanson in 1829. He was much discouraged by losing

his first two cases, but he was so successful in his third, which was equally as difficult as the first two, that he gained courage to continue his practice. He continued as the physicial of Hanson and vicinity for forty years having a large practice. His abilities as a physician were highly respected. His manner was reserved and somewhat peculiar, yet his words of moderation commanded attention whenever he spoke. He always exhibited a devotion to duty and a spirit of self-sacrifice. He would call as readily on those who would render his fee at the time of service as he would to those whom he knew would never make any return to him. Dr. Barker never married, but he lived and died on his paternal estate on Main Street in the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Leo Stephansky. He died November 22, 1874.

Dr. Calvin Pratt, coming from Bridgewater, succeeded Dr. Bowdoin, but he only stayed for a short time saying that he should not have come to Hanson had he known there was such a good physician as Dr. Bowen Barker.

For ten years after Dr. Bowen Barker retired as a doctor, there is no record of any practicing physician who lived in Hanson. Therefore, we must look to a neighboring village for a doctor. On February 11, 1869 Dr. James D. Harvey came to Bryantville to open up a medical practice. He boarded with the family of Greenleaf Kilbrith, until he and his wife took residence in the house now owned by Dr. John Angley. Dr. Harvey was born and educated in Raynham, later graduating

from the University of Pennsylvania. He stayed in Bryantville only a year and a half, departing during the summer of 1870.

The next doctor from Bryantville to serve Hanson was Dr. Warren W. Pillsbury who came in November, 1872. He was born on September 10, 1848 in Manchester, New Hampshire. He graduated from Bowdoin Medical College in 1873, and the next year he joined the Massachusetts Medical Society. A few years later he became a member of the American Medical Society. In 1876 he married and brought his bride to Bryantville where they started housekeeping in the house on the corner of School Street and Mattakeesett Street, now occupied by Dr. John Angley and family. He was well liked by the people and skilled as a physician, but he was unable to break his ties to New Hampshire, so on May 12, 1877 he and his wife moved to Merrimac, New Hampshire.

For the next two years Hanson, as well as Bryantville, was without a medical doctor until in 1879 Dr. Flavel S. Thomas began to practice in Hanson. Dr. Thomas, the son of Isaac and Abby Shurtleff Thomas, was born in Hanson on September 7, 1852 on the farm which had been in the Thomas family since it was bought from the Indians in 1662. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Cox on High Street, next to the Congregational Church. His mother was the daughter of Rev. Flavel Shurtleff who preached in the South Hanson Baptist Church from 1836 to 1845. Dr. Thomas attended Hanson public schools, Hanover Academy, Phillips Andover

Academy, and Harvard Medical School, graduating in 1874. Afterwards he attended and was graduated from Montreal Veterinary College. In 1879, the year he began practicing in Hanson, he married Caroline Moore Smith of Titusville, Pennsylvania - previously she had lived in Hanson until her father, Captain Joseph Smith, a civil engineer returning from the Civil War, decided to move his family to Titusville, Pennsylvania. Dr. Flavel Thomas and his wife took up residence on the Smith estate, the home of the ancestors of his wife, which is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hancock on Maquan Street. The doctor and his wife had two children, Percival Shurtleff and Saba Drew. He served the town long and well, both as a medical doctor and a public servant. For many years he was on the School Committee for Hanson, a charter member of the Hanson Improvement Society, school doctor since the law requiring one was made, and town physician for over forty years. He was a scholarly man who wrote for medical and scientific magazines and who authored several books. He lectured on Comparative Anatomy for the College of Physicians and Surgons. His name was published in "Who's Who in America" 1903-1905. This was a great honor inasmuch as there were about 80 million people from which only 14,443 Americans were distinguished enough to be chosen. He was a member of Puritan Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Whitman, Pilgrim Royal Arch Chapter, and Old Colony Commaddery, Knights Templar, The Hatherly Medical Club, and the Massachusetts Medical Society.

DR. ORLANDO W. CHARLES

Dr. Charles settled in Bryantville on September 17, 1881 being at that time the only doctor serving in Pembroke and Hanson. He was born August 20, 1856 in Fryeburg, Maine, the son of Simeon and Rebecca (Woodman) Charles. He was educated in the public schools of Fryeburg, Fryeburg Academy and Bowdoin Medical College, graduating in 1881. He married Elizabeth Chandler of Fryeburg in May 1883 and in 1885 purchased the home at the corner of Mattakeesett and School Streets now owned by Dr. John Angley. His hobby was collecting objects of historical value and his home was a museum of interesting articles. Dr. Charles retired in October 1922 after 41 years of practice around Hanson and Bryantville. From then on, his eyesight began to fail and he returned to his old home in Fryeburg in which he died, March 6, 1946, at the age of ninety and totally blind.

Thus ended the colorful career of an old time country doctor.

Mrs. Abbie O. Whitmarsh

For two score years Mrs. Abbie Whitmarsh had an extensive patronage as a clairvoyant physician, many believing they wer helped in their infirmities by the advice of the spirit of Maggie, an Indian girl who controlled her. Her kind heart and open hand won her many friends. She had her home in Fosterville and later moved to the house of Theodore Chandler - now owned by Frank Whitmarsh on Mattakeesett Street in Pembroke. About 1882 she bought the place of Warren Hill opposite the Bryantville Fire Station and in the 1900's went to live with her daughter, Mrs. Mary Capel in Bridgewater.

Dr. James S. Chase

Dr. Chase was a native of Harwich. He settled in Bryantville in October 1904, bringing with him his bride, Nellie Randall of Duxbury. He was educated in the public schools of his home town and graduated in 1904 from Tufts Medical College with his brother Lawrence, a physician in Carver. In 1907 he moved to the new house he had built on Main Street in Hanson now owned by Mr. M. E. Pierce. He was a member of the Hatherly Medical Club, school physician, and a member of the Hanson School Committee. He practiced medicine until 1934.

Dr. G. E. Lentine

Dr. Lentine came to Bryantville in 1907 with his bride Anna Hayes of Vermont and occupied the house of the late W. W. Bryant. A permit was granted him to open a lying in hospital at his residence. In 1910 he moved with his wife and childred to Hanson to the home now owned by Mr. R. L. Bellick at 474 Main Street. He was a native of the Islands of Malta and attended public schools of Boston. He was a member of the Hatherly Medical Club, an honorary member of Theodore Bonney Post GAR and of the Hanson Grange. He left Hanson to reside in Rhode Island.

Dr. Frances L. Inglee

Dr. Inglee was born in Boston and attended Boston public schools. She graduated from the University of Maine College of Liberal Arts with an AB degree in 1938 and Tufts Medical School in 1943. During the summer at medical school she worked as a physician with the Grenfell Mission of Labrador and at St. Anthony Newfoundland. After a rotating internship at the Eastern Maine General Hospital in Bangor, there followed a pediatric internship at Johns Hopkins Hospital. She was a Lieut. in the U. S. Public Health Service in Germany for 17 months, returning in 1946 to a year's residency in Contagious Diseases at Willard Parker Hospital in New York. She interned at Children's Hospital in Boston. She then practiced pediatrics for one year and returned to Massachusetts where

she had a teaching fellowship at Tufts until July 1953. In 1948 she married Lewis Inglee, Jr. of Amityville, Long Island. They purchased the old Kingsbury Place on High Street, in 1952 and she now practices pediatrics from an office in her home. She is on the staff of the Brockton Hospital and the Boston Floating Hospital.

DR. BRADFORD H. PEIRCE

Dr. Peirce was born in Wakefield, Mass, the son of Evaline MacCurdy and George Feirce. He attended Latin school in Somerville and graduated from Harvard College in 1902, and Harvard Medical School in 1906.

He came to Hanson in 1919 as the first superintendent and medical director of Plymouth County Hospital (the first Tubercular Hospital under the Massachusetts State Law of 1916). He served there until his retirement in 1948, a veteran of 40 years of public service.

He married Helen G. Adams of Cambridge and they had a daughter, Eveline.

Dr. Peirce served in World War I as Navy Medical Officer at the Officer's Material School at Harvard and at the Naval Hospital in New London, Connecticut.

He was very active in community affairs, especially the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, the Congregational Church and the Wampatuck Lodge.

He died in 1958 after several years of poor health, and was buried in Ferm Hill Cemetery, next to his home.

Dr. Donald Martin succeeded him at the Plymouth County Hospital, serving very successfully until September 9, 1960, when he resigned to accept a similar position with the Norfolk County Hospital in Braintree Highlands.

Dr. Clark Streeter was named Superintendent of the Plymouth County Hospital on October 19, 1960, filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Dr. Martin.

DR. NORMAN DAVID BREIL

Dr. Breil was born in Raynham on January 17, 1909, the son of Mr. and Mrs. August W. Breil. He was one of five children and was educated in the Whitman and Holbrook public schools. He attended Tufts College Pre-Medical School and graduated from Mid-West Medical College of Kansas City, Missouri, in 1934 with an MD and DPH Degree. He interned at the Evangelical Hospital of Kansas City.

In 1935 he joined the medical staff of the Bethlehem Steel Co., where he practiced industrial medicine and surgery until 1943.

In 1948, he became interested in the study of Hypnosis which he has studied extensively. He is a member of The American Society of Clinical Hypnosis, The New England Society of Clinical Hypnosis, The Society for Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis, and The American Society of Psychosomatic Medicine.

Dr. Breil is a member of the American Medical Association, a member of the staff of the Goddard Memorial Hospital in Stoughton, a member of the Hanson Board of Health, and has been Hanson's school physician since 1943.

He married Helen Cannon of Brockton in 1935. They moved to Hanson in March, 1943 and have two children Karen and David.

Dr. and Mrs. Breil live at 22 Main Street in the old Walter Damon House.

KIRK A GARLAND, D.M.D.

Dr. Garland practiced dentistry at the corner of Joyce Road and West Washington Street. A few of the old time natives may remember his beautiful "Rock Haven" and the peacocks strutting in the sun. In his youth he travelled the country with the circus and married a follower of show business. He was elderly when he settled in Hanson, but continued to practice, until too feeble to do so.

DR. THOMAS GORHAM

Dr. Gorham was born in Hanson on February 6, 1910, the son of Hubert A. and Annie T. Gorham. He was educated in the Hanson schools, graduating from Whitman High with the class of 1928, and Tufts Dental School with the class of 1934.

He interned one year at the Massachusetts Memorial Hospital in Boston. Dr. Gorham has practiced dentistry in Abington, Hanson, Plymouth, and Kingston with the exception of a span of about two years as a dental officer in the Naval Service at Sampson Naval Training Center in New York, Pearl Harbor and Guam.

He held dental clinics in the Pembroke and Kingston schools for 17 years. He is a member of the Southeastern District Dental Society and a component of the American Dental Association. He is also a member of the Round Table Club, an educational and social group in Plymouth.

Dr. Gorham married Mary Mulliken of Kingston and they have two children - Nancy and Philip.

DR. ERNEST CROWLEY, D.D.S.

Dr. Crowley was born June 25, 1924 in Milton, Massachusetts. He graduated from Milton High School, College of the Holy Cross and received his D.D.S. degree from University of Maryland, College of Dental Surgery, in Baltimore. He is married to the former Ethel V. Sheeley of Baltimore and they have three children.

Dr. Crowley started practice in Hanson in 1951 in the Walkey Block and made his home in a restored old farm house on the corner of State Street and Broadway in Hanover. He was Hanson' school dentist from 1951 until his resignation in July of 1956.

ROBERT M. NUTTER, D.V.M.

Dr. Robert Nutter was born in the small town of Gisburn, England, the son of Mabel and Samuel Nutter.

After arriving in the United States, he attended grade school in New Jersey and later moved to Ohio, where he attended high school. He entered the Veterinary School at the University of Pennsylvania and after pre-medical school graduated from Middlesex University Veterinary School, which is now Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts.

During World War II, he was assigned by the U.S. Boast Guard as Veterinarian for the 13th Naval District (Washington and Oregon) to take care of sentry dogs and Beach Patrol Horses. A year later he was transferred to the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida in the same type of duty. After his discharge, there followed a year of practice with another veterinarian in Quincy.

Since 1952 he has lived on Main Street in South Hanson in the home once occupied by Dr. Royce Josselyn, the young doctor who met his untimely death in 1926, and in whose honor a plaque was erected on the corner of Main and Reed Streets.

Dr. Nutter is the first veterinarian that the town of Hanson ever had and he has been very successful, with his large and small animal hospital.

Rear Admiral Albert S. Barker, U.S.N.

Albert S. Barker was born in Hanson on March 31, 1843. He lived in the house at the corner of Main Street and High Street, now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Reid. From Massachusetts he was appointed to the Naval Academy at Annapolis on October 25, 1859. When the Civil War began he was assigned to the U.S.S. Mississippi. In Farragut's squadron he took part in the capture and occupation of New Orleans.

In the early eighties, he was chosen of all the Navy to command the "Enterprise" in her work of taking deep-sea soundings and other scientific work, the results of which have become established facts in hydrographical and scientific text books. At the time of the destruction of the U.S.S. Maine in Havana harbor, Admiral Barker (Then a captain) was senior aid and confidential naval attache of John D. Long, Secretary of the Navy. On the beginning of hostilities, he was given command of the U.S.S. Newark. He was next given command of the famous battleship U.S.S. Oregon.

As rear admiral he was successively commandant at the Norfolk and New York Navy yards, and then he went to sea as commander of the special battleship squadron which made the European cruise. He also commanded the "defence fleet" in the war maneuvers off the New England coast in 1903 and 1904. He was retired in March 31, 1905. He died January 30, 1916. Few men of his day, who served in the United States Navy, had a more active career or saw so much fighting and

so many naval battles as Rear Admiral Barker, Although he was, no doubt, a stern officer aboard ship, he was a meek, shy person in private life. It has been said of him that when he came to Hanson by train, he would get off and walk down the track, then cross the field in back of Mr. Calder's new store (now Usshers) and across Main Street into his home, unobserved.

Commander Albert C. Read, U.S.N.

Commander Albert C. Read, nephew of Rear Admiral Barker and a native born son of Hanson, was the first person to fly a plane across the Atlantic Ocean. He was born on March 29, 1887 and spent his boyhood in the house at the corner of Main Street and High Street where Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Reid now reside. His boyhood ambition was to discover the North Pole, and these are the words of his school teacher, Mrs. Josie Chamberlain, "To discover the North Pole, that is an achievement worthwhile. The difficulties of that task have baffled men for hundreds of years. It is only by facing difficulties bravely and overcoming them that you boys can win real success when you become men." He attended the public schools of Hanson and graduated from Whitman High School. During his last high school vacation he obtained a job collecting fares on the merry-go-round at nearby Mayflower Grove.

His father, Reverend Joseph B. Read, was the pastor of the Hanson Baptist Church from 1872 until 1883, and again from 1898 until 1900. His Mother, sister of Rear Admiral Barker, was the Baptist Sunday School Superintendent until 1913.

In 1903 Albert Read was the third alternate nominated to the U. S. Naval Academy. The principal alternate failed his physical examination at Annapolis. The first and second alternated failed in their mental tests, so it was left to the third alternate, the bashful boy from Hanson, to go to the U. S. Naval Academy at Annaplis, from which he graduated in 1906.

On May 16, 1919 Commander Read and his crew flew a Navy seaplane NC-4 from the United States to Newfoundland, then to the Azores, finally landing in Lisbon, Portugal on May 27, 1919. When he was questioned about being the first man to fly the Atlantic, he said, jokingly, "As I rode in the cockpit and got out first, I suppose I was a little ahead of the other fellow."

GEORGE FORBES STETSON

George Forbes Stetson was born on April 11, 1833 on Bonney Hill" in the house now owned by Edwin P. Crossman, where he lived until 1862 when he bought the house now occupied by Dale Chenoweth. He was the son of Deacon George Forbes Stetson and Chloe M. (Bonney) Stetson. As a boy of ten or twelve drawing lumber for his father from Weymouth Landing he watched the construction of the "Old Colony Railroad" on his route. His educational advantages were limited to the public schools of Hanson and a few terms at Hanover Academy. On December 3, 1861 he married Dorothy Brown Dyer, daughter of Hervey and Ruth Dyer of Pembroke, and they had two children - Florence Dyer Stetson and George Hervey Stetson.

He devoted his early life to shoemaking until 1886 when he changed his vocation to farming. He served the town as Justice of Peace and for six years as United States Assistant Collector of Internal Revenue for the towns of Hanson and Hanover. Mr. Stetson was interested in the schools of the town, being a member of the school committee for several years. He was very earnest in his long and strenuous fight for the abolition of the school districts, and he wrote the first school report urging the ownership of all school books and property by the town.

As a young man he was a member of the Hanson Debating Club which, he contends was a great benefit to him in later

years when he served in the State legislature. In 1861, '62, '79 and '83 he was sent as a representative to the Massachusetts House of Representatives where he took an active part in favor of prohibitory legislation. He was a "Free Soiler" in his early years before he became a voter, but his active political life was with the Republican Party which he helped to organize. He was interested in general anti-slavery movement, in the indignation meetings denouncing the assault on Charles Sumner and condemning those concerned in the execution of John Brown. In termperance work he took an active part, being a member of the old Hanson "Temperance Society". In 1883 while in the legislature, he was house chairman of the joint standing committee on the liquor law.

GEORGE E. BOWKER

George E. Bowker was an intelligent, faithful, and efficient Town Official serving as Selectman, Assessor, and Chairman of Public Welfare for fifteen years. He was chairman of the Water Commissioners for nineteen years - since the department was formed.

He was a credit to the Town of Hanson, always governed in his actions by what he considered best for the interests of the Town he served.

Mr. Bowker represented this District in the House of Representatives 1911 - 1912.

HAROLD J. BETZOLD, JR.

Harold J. Betzold, Jr. was born December 18, 1926 in St. Paul, Minnesota. He attended local schools there and upon high school graduation, in 1943, enlisted in the Navy where he served with the Marine Raiders and was decorated for combat action.

After his service he entered Rollins College in Winterpark, Florida, graduating in 1949 with an A.B. degree. From then until 1952 he studied at the Boston University School of Law where he received his L.L.B. degree.

In 1954 Attorney Betzold opened offices on Washington St. in Whitman and in the Walkey Block in Hanson. He is very active in political affairs and is the Hanson Town Counsel.

Professor Timothy Drake

Mr. Drake devoted nearly two months in Europe during the summer of 1900, making the journey especially to witness the Passion Play.

After witnessing the play, he remained in Ober Ammergau the greater part of one week in order that he might visit and become closely acquainted with the living characters of the world's greatest sacred play.

He secured the finest views that could be taken, and had many of them richly colored by artists in Europe, who have made the work a life study.

While showing his views, he endeavored to tell the story in a way that would draw the minds of his audience nearer to the Master.

The lecture was presented severd times at the Congregational Church, the Baptist Church and at Thomas Hall, always as a benefit for some worthy cause.

FRED STANLEY SHAW

Fred Stanley Shaw was born in Allston, Massachusetts but lived on County Road in Hanson for many years.

He wrote a great many short stories for magazines. Most of these magazines have gone out of existence now. Some were The Detective Story Magazine, The Blue Book, The Green Book, and Red Book.

Mr. Shaw used as a pen name "Stanley Shaw". He had several books published among which were "The Siren of the Snows", "The White God's Way", "Hearts Afire" and "A Woman Tamer".

His books were mostly Canadian Northwest and his short stories were mostly in the class of detective stories. One of his books "Hearts Afire" was made into a movie and for that purpose, of course, the title was changed.

He also had an advertising business that at one time was quite thriving. He would write the copy for ads of a department store - (the description under the illustration) - setting up the ad as it would appear in the paper. Many of his clients were from large cities down South.

DANA MOORE PRATT

Dana Moore Pratt was one of those outstanding men whose own standards of living inevitably contribute to higher standards for other individuals and the community at large. When he was over 70 years old he received a letter from a man who had been his engineering assistant when they were making the first plane table survey of the Blue Hills. That man said that throughout the 50 years since they had worked together he had tried to follow the example set by his young foreman for honest work and professional accuracy as well as in daily living. He also remembered the pleasure visiting the Pratts in their home. Two comments by people who saw him only in the last years of his life indicate that he had indeed lived the kind of life expected of him so many years ago. When he died, a woman who ran a little variety store where he frequently stopped, said simply, "He was a gentlemen." And the doctor who tended him in his last illness said, "I didn't know him very long, but I decided that here was a man who would be missed". While the basic principles of his life and destiny are the same for any generation, his life typified the self-reliance and independence of that earlier age. Though his professional life took him far afield from his home town of Hanson, he was a country man at heart and devoted to the best interests of his own small town. Unlike the lives of famous men that seem too remote for humble imitation, the clear-cut lines of Dana Pratt's life set

a course for other men to follow. To be sure, Nature had endowed him with a good brain and a fine physique, but he cultivated both. His was a natural, well-rounded personality, emanating strength. He was indeed one of those all too few "uncommon common" men among us.

Appropriately, he was born on Patriot's Day, April 19, 1870 in a low-lying farmhouse on Elm Street in Hanson. His father was Edwin Pratt, a veteran of four years in the Civil War - who had seen Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg. The War over, he came home and married Sarah Beal, then went to farming. Not because he wanted to but because opportunities for diversity in employment in that day were limited. He was a hard driving Yankee whose great grandfather had walked to Bunker Hill and the Boston Tea Party. He was used to a hard life on the battlefield and on the farm. He expected his young son to assume responsibilities our own softer age would not consider suitable. At the age of ten young Dana was sent with a team of oxen and a load of boxlogs to Plymouth, some fifteen miles away, despite his mother's protests. This rugged education toughened his moral fibre for later more serious problems. When he was chased by a bull in his father's pasture, he turned, literally seized the bull by the horns, and made a flying but controlled escape to the other side of the wall. This trait of being able to stand up to a situation alone, if need be, and see it through made him a man to accept responsibility, self-assured and determined.

His high regard for education was undoubtedly stimulated by his lasting respect and affection for some of his early teachers. His first one was Clara Josselyn Langill, who remembered him as the brightest boy she ever had in school. Mrs. Langill became the first woman school committee member. He was largely responsible for the naming of the L.Z.Thomas school on South Main Street. "Zelidy" as older people called him, was evidently a dynamic force in the lives of Hanson young fry of the 1880's. Perhaps his best affection was reserved for Miss Lillian Lewis who taught him in the last years of Grammar school. She recognized his potential ability and gave him the task of assisting in teaching arithmetic to slower pupils in the hallway. It was she who encouraged him to dream of a higher education. While his parents were discussing this possibility, he stayed an extra year with Miss Lewis, then entered the third year of Whitman High School. Although he had had no previous instruction in Latin, in a short while he was answering questions with the rest of the class.

Many years later, with a family of his own to educate, he fought long and hard to keep the Town of Hanson from building a High School of its own, which would have become, with its limited means, a second-rate school. He knew very well the necessity of a first-rate High School in the preparation of young people, especially if they went beyond secondary schooling. It was better by far to keep sending them to Whitman High School until the two towns joined in building the present building.

Dana Moore Pratt (Cont.)

After a year at Thayer Academy, he entered Massachusetts Institute of Technology and graduated as a civil engineer with the class of 1892. His schedule for the day was a grueling one, for he had to do farm chores before he left in the morning and after he returned. More than once he fell asleep at the dinner table. After graduation he joined the firm of Henry F. Bryant in Boston, where he was rated "second to none". This Henry Fletcher Bryant was the son of William and Jane Bryant for whom Bryantville was named.

He was married in 1896 to Lucy Allen Luther who lived in the oldGurney home on the corner of Indian Head Street and Main. She was the daughter of Georgiana Gurney Luther, the second woman in town to vote for school committee, the only possible voting a woman could do in those days. Her grandfather was Ebenezer Bourne Keene Gurney, an able and useful man who had been selectman for many years, a surveyor, and a lover of music. The Luther girls - Grace and Lucy - were in doubt for a little while as to which one the young man was courting, for he spent most of his time doing algebra with Grace who was already a school teacher.

Dana and Lucy Pratt had three children - Alan Luther, now of Rockland; Elizabeth Gurney (Josselyn) of Hingham; and Marjorie Dana Pratt who died at the age of 21. Their marriage proved to be a most successful one that lasted for fifty-two years. A few years before she died, she said simply that she

never could have found anyone who would have suited her any better. When she died, he added the postscript, "She was sweet, and couldn't have been improved upon." The comfort surrounding any man's comings and goings has much to do with his success in the outside world, but this was a mutual give and take. His masculine strength and purpose, his affectionate light-hearted manner could be counted on at home. Unlike most busy professional men, he played as well as worked. As a young man he had dreamed of being a professional ballplayer, and so his children followed him on Saturday afternoons to the local ball games. He took the family on rides, played games with them, took them for vacations to the shore or for swimming in fresh water, and to the stock company plays at Mayflower Grove or to the movies. He had an uncommon knack for nonsense at home, and though he lacked musical sense, he was inclined to break out into a clumsy shuffle, accompanying his clattering feet with a ludicrous vocal rendition of "Turkey in the Straw".

His proffessional obligations had taken him all over New England in the earlier years of his marriage, as well as to New Jersey, even Puerto Rico, and much of the time to New York and Long Island. He began to realize that he needed his family as his family needed him, not just occasional weekends, but regularly. He gave up his job and came back to Hanson with no job in sight, and only his professional reputation and his confidence to begin a new life. This kind of thinking was typical.

If he recognized what was right for him to do, he could about-face, not only in a major business move but in small personal matters. In preparation for business at home, he installed one of the first telephones in the neighborhood. When he left New York, he drove his first car home, after one driving lesson although he was absolutely devoid of any mechanical instinct. He substituted determination.

In school his weak subject had been public speaking, but when he began to join actively in Town Meeting discussions, he found he had plenty to say from his own business experience and gradually he learned to speak in public.

Although he was appointed to various committees, in connection with school situations, he held only two permanent offices, but tese he held for many years. He was elected Water Commissioner and served with Walter Calder and George Bowker for well over a decade. He was also made a trustee of the Fern Hill Cemetery and was secretary and treasurer for an equally long time. It was he who put the financial condition of the Cemetery Corporation on a sound basis, In fact, whatever he did, he did with his whole heart and head.

He tried to enlist in the first World War as an engineer although he was 48 at the time. He was not accepted, although he was a rugged man of great vitality. Other men marvelled at the way he could tear through the underbrush in the woody areas he surveyed. It was easy enough to get a place in the

company of State Guard organized in Hanson under Dr. Conant, a retired minister with some military background. The men too young and those too old met for regular drilling thereafter and even went to Camp Devens for maneuvers. Some years after the War had ended, he disclosed casually one day to his family that he had been a secret service agent during the War, with the duty of making regular inspection trips to the Wheeler Reflector factory, at that time employed in making shells for ammunition.

He made application at one time for a job as manager of a suburban town to the west of Boston. This was fruitless, but perhaps just as well. In his own town of Hanson it was once once said of him that in Town Meeting he was like the bell wether leading his flock. A man as outspoken and positive in opinions as he was inevitably makes enemies. There were many people who opposed him throughout the years, but as even some of his detractors might admit, they always knew just where he stood, when it was a matter of the Town's best interest.

Aware of the confusion in property ownership of large tracts of land, he approached the Pembroke assessors about making a survey of the Town of Pembroke in yearly installments. The assessors knew they were losing revenue from unmapped acreage. Thereafter the Town of Pembroke voted $1,000.00 each year for maps until the whole town had been surveyed.

Over the years following he mapped also the towns of Halifax, Hanson, East Bridgewater and Rockland. These maps were brought up to date each year as property changed hands, for the assessors were united in realizing the necessity of owning them. Knowing that these small towns were in very modest circumstances, he deliberately cut his price, so that they could afford to have the Assessors' maps. He figured at the end of that series of plans that he had mapped 70,000 acres. During the height of his activity after he had settled down in Hanson, he was offered a chance to go to South America and make a survey for a copper mine for A. C. Burrage. Financially this would have been an excellent opportunity, but he turned it down, for he had made up his mind once and for all that his place was at home. His most ambitious job away from home at this time was engineering the construction of the Hartford Fire Insurance Park, the hugh park in the center of the city.

His social life, apart from visits with various members of his family and his in-laws was centered on the Sons of Veterans Meetings. He had begun his membership when the order was first started and so devoted to its original intent, and so constant in his attendance was he that when he was living in Brookline just after his marriage, he rode his bicycle from Brookline to Hanson to attend some of the meetings. He served in various positions in the order; never missed Memorial Day observances whenever he was home. He was a member for well

over fifty years. Only failing health at the last kept him from a meeting. He encouraged the members to get interested in informal debates on current political and historical questions. It was only a step from this to extending this interest to the 8th Grade. At first, he gave a prize himself to the pupil who wrote the best essay on an historical subject. He tried to stimulate an equal interest in mathmatics. This didn't prove so popular, but the Sons of Veterans finally assumed the responsibility for paying for the History prize until the Town took it over. It remains the Dana Pratt History prize. He was fond of reading American History; loved his native land intensely; deplored the growing tendency of a large portion of the American public to expect something for nothing. He wanted to see people appreciate their country and be self-reliant. The political and moral philosophy of his generation of New Englanders was giving way to something less independent. He was not hesitant about denouncing the trend. His passion for independent thought, not only for himself but others, as well as the fact that he had married into a family of independent women, made it easy for him to accept Woman Suffrage. The Sons of Veterans order was for him a vehicle for expressing his truly patriotic feeling.

He was always interested in young people, but he wanted them to play hard, work hard, study, make something of their native talents. He took uncommon pains on occasions when he travelled the highway to Pembroke in the early morning and came

across boys and girls going to school. He would always give them a lift, unless the girls were unescorted by boys. Then he would drive by, for he didn't want those girls to think it would be all right for them to ride with other strange men just because it would have been all right for them to ride with him. His interest in children extended to the little tots, whose affections he often courted with Baker's Milk chocolate. His arrival in a home became synonymous many times with the appearance of the confection. He liked all animals; couldn't bear to see them caged; but he loved cats. His day closed with the cat in his lap; his shoes off and his feet in another chair; a glass of milk, a handful of crackers and either a detective story or a Western for a half hour or so of reading. For other diversion in odd moments on a winter day, he worked on a file of cards, which gave on each card the mileage from Hanson, size of the town, population and any other pertinent information.

As a child he had been forced to go to Sunday School and church in an era when denominational demarcations were extremely narrow, and therefore important. Even if his work had not taken him well beyond such spiritual confinement, his innate love of freedom of thought and his fondness for many types of people certainly would have. To please two Protestant clergymen friends of his, he went to church on festival occasions, and always with the Sons of Veterans on Memorial Sunday. He spoke warmly, however, of a certain Monseigneur in a Brighton Seminary. He was concerned only with a man's character. He "had no use"

as he would reiterate for anyone or anything that seemed to him mean, avaricious, false or treacherous.

Nor was he impressed by money or social position. He wanted always to have enough money to pay his bills and provide sufficiently for a decent living for his family, and for whatever education they wanted, but he was never concerned with amassing a fortune. He mentioned once casually, as an interesting fact only, that he was a descendant of John Howland, the boy who was rescued after a dive - intentional or otherwise - from the good ship Mayflower. He had been a house guest of an executive of a national radio chain, but spoke as enthusiasticly of a boarding place in Carver, Massachusetts.

Some people thought of him only as brusque and commanding, and to be sure, the dog in the house obeyed immediately when he heard his name spoken in that authoritative voice. So did his children. He was not a dishwashing husband, though he was ever ready to voice approval of his wife's accomplishments, so he didn't need to be doing dishes to impress her.

Nothing was more typical of him than the manner of his living out the last days of his life. Gasping for breath he tried valiantly to give orders to two men working for him so that he could finish the six remaining jobs he had undertaken. After he had acquiesced to demands that he allow the visiting nurse to coem, he admitted ruefully that it had been "just stubborn pride". He prepared in those last days a newspaper

notice which he wanted sent to the Boston Herald when he died, for he knew there would be people in Boston that would be interested in knowing. Then with a wry chuckle after a spasm of pain, he would say, "Now who would have thought I would go this way?" He had always expected that he would die with his boots on. Death came on August 19, 1946. He was 76 years old.

It is now fourteen years since that day, but the ineradicable imprint of his dynamic energy, his fearlessness, tempered with gentleness and good humor, but more especially his awareness of his responsibilities grows deeper with the years. His own deliberate choice as well as the chance of his birth had placed him in a humble spot, but the expanse of his own universal nature pushed aside those rural horizons. Just as professionally he had opened up hitherto uncharted areas for human habitations, so in his social contacts, he opened up new vistas of attainment for those who really knew him. He would have like no better memorial than to be remembered by ambitious boys and girls when the DANA PRATT History prize is awarded.

Mercer V. Tillson

Mr. Tillson was born in Pembroke, October 19, 1837. He was one of the Minute Men of '61 and after his discharge re-enlisted on March 30, 1864 in the Signal Corps, being discharged December 9, 1865.

Besides his war record Mr. Tillson leaves behind a memorial, which should always be associated with his name, in the form of the valuable maps, records of boundaries, etc. of the original town of Pembroke, all surveyed and worked out personally by Mr. Tillson, who spared no effort to make all as near perfection as possible.

All of the maps, accompanied by descriptions taken from colonial and town records, were presented to Cobb Library (1912).

It is gratifying to know that this fund of information, which no one will ever collect again because of the labor involved, is to be preserved in a public institution where it will be available to all who are interested in the early history of Hanson and Pembroke.

Walter Damon

Walter Damon, the oldest son of Elijah and Phoebe Damon was born in Boston November 22, 1860. His younger days were spent in Cleveland, Ohio where his father had located in business.

Walter Damon (Cont.)

About 1870 the family moved to South Hanson, his father's native place.

Walter was a quiet unassuming boy, possessing gentlemanly mannars and absolutely free from affectation. Though he liked to play boyish games with the others, that sometimes became a little rough, there was, through it all a natural refinement that stamped him as being of gentle birth and good training. There was nothing "stuck up" about him, the humblest pupil at the school was never looked down upon by Walter Damon.

At Harvard he was a class mate of W. W. Bryant and Albert C. Burrage with whom he had a close friendship.

In Hanson, he made his home in the house now owned by Dr. Breil. He was interested in whatever made the community better and was closely identified with the life of the town which he served for several years as Chairman of the Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor. His popularity is shown by the unanimous vote which he received for Selectman and the very great regret with which the town received his resignation from office.

He was Justice of the Peace for many years and also a civil engineer of repute. He might have attained distinction as a lawyer but he chose to live quietly at his old home where his townsmen have had the benefit of his mental attainments and sound judgment.

MISCELLANEOUS

HANSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Hanson fire department's first field day, August 29th, 1908, was a financial and social success.

The place selected for the affair was at Cushing' Corner, an ideal spot for the day's celebration. On the south side of the field a tent was erected from which ice crea, tonic, peanuts, etc. were dispensed to all who had the requisite nickles and dimes to spend. Souvenirs were hawked by boys in all parts of the field and found ready purchasers. By actual count there were six hundred persons present at one time in the afternoon.

The hours were given over to a program of sports; the hundred yard dash, a fat man's race, putting the shot, hose coupling contest, a tug of war, a wheelbarrow race and three ball games.

Elmer Benson of Whitman was the successful contestant in the hundred yard dash, winning a pair of fine shoes donated by B. F. Bowker & Company. Norman Ramsdell won the fat men's race, winning a derby hat donated by Oscar Johnson of Whitman. Boxes of cigars were the prizes for the winning teams in ball, tug of war and hose coupling.

The third annual Field Day (1910) was held on the Burrage baseball field with the usual athletic sports and hose coupling contests. The department silver cup was the prize for the winning team of the ball game. This cup must be won three years in succession to be retained.

Thanks is given to Mr. "Ben" F. Livermore, Chief Engineer of the department, for giving the boys of Hose Co. No. 2 the opportunity of having a new fire station in 1915. They were homeless so to speak and had no place to go. Meetings had to be held in Wampatuck Hall which was an added expense to the boys individually. The Fire boys, a volunteer department, have done much work and deserve much credit for their new home. The lot and foundation for Hose Company No. 3 was furnished by Mr. A.C. Burrage and members of Hose Company No. 3. The hose house was furnished by the town. The lot, foundation, house and furniture at Hose Company No. 1 was furnished by members of Hose Company No. 1.

The first annual report of the Fire Engineers of the Town of Hanson was contained in the Ninety-fourth Annual Town Report for the year ending 1914.

It was submitted to the citizens of the town in order to show as clearly as possible what has been done by the town and what the members of these volunteer companies have done. The report was signed by Oliver Veo, Chief of the Fire Engineers, B. F. Livermore and E. W. Lane.

HANSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Benjamin Barker was the first Constable recorded in the records of the Town. The first hundred years found many different men serving in the capacity of Constable.

In 1893 it was voted at the Annual Town Meeting to choose two Constables, one for the north part of the town add one for the south part. To the present day there are still two constables elected each year at the Town Election.

In 1922 Constable John H. Ibbitson was appointed Chief of Police and served in the capacity until 1946 when the present Chief of Police, Kenneth N. MacKenzie, was appointed.

The Department is under Civil Service. Modern police methods along with up-to-date means of radio communications and police equipment have greatly increased efficiency.

COUNTERFEIT HALF DOLLARS

Around 1930 parties interested in stamping silver half dollars out of heavy solid silverware rented a large barn on Holmes Street and started operations.

First they built a false section across the rear end of the barn, constructing it so that anyone looking around, would think they were looking at the end of the building. Behind this wall, they set up their stamping press, and started manufacturing good looking half dollars.

The money-making operation lasted for quite some time - no one knows just how long - until the continuous purchasing of the secondhand silverware eventually caused the shopkeepers to become suspicious. They, in turn, reported the sales to the Federal Bureau of Intelligence, who evidently had been trying to trace the source of the counterfeit half dollars for some time. They quickly followed up the lead.

It was the custom of the counterfeiters to take the train at North Hanson with a traveling bag filled with half dollars, distribute them around New York City, pick up the silverware for more stock and then return again to the quiet, country town of North Hanson.

The Federal Bureau of Intelligence finally located the source of manufacturing, and with the aid of the Hanson Police Force, raided the barn, capturing the members of the counterfeiting enterprise.

Counterfeit Half Dollars (Cont.)

The counterfeit half dollars, when assayed, had a greater silver content than did the genuine half dollar at the time.

MOONSHINE STILL

There was a large, illegal alcohol distilling plant or "moonshine still" located off Hudson Street, Hanson in the year 1923. It was situated about a half mile back from the street near a clear, crystal spring close by Poor Meadow River.

The only means of transportation from this highway to this cleverly hidden plant was by ox cart. The sugar, grain, etc. used by the operators, were hauled from South Hanson by motor truck.

After having operated successfully for some time, the continuous hauling of heavy loads of supplies on Elm Street aroused the interest of Chief of Police, John H. Ibbitson. He decided to investigate the destination of this apparently large supply of material. It was not long before he discovered the eventual use to which it was being put. Chief Ibbitson contacted the Internal Revenue Bureau, the Chiefs of Police of East Bridgewater, and Whitman, and together they conducted a very successful raid. The still was operating at full capacity at the time of the raid, but it didn't take the officers long to slow this up.

One of the partners escaped through the heavy underbrush, but the officers captured several of the operators, including a chemist who controlled the quality of the alcohol produced.

The operators were prosecuted and the equipment confiscated by the officers for the Federal Government.

Some of the alcohol finally found its way into the radiators of quite a few of Hanson natives that following winter, and the rumor went that it also helped check a few head colds.

SPLIT ROCK SPRING

One of the most remarkable nattural curiosities in this section is Split Rock Spring. It lies not far from a quarter of amile directly back of Deacon George F. Stetson's home - now occupied by Mr. Edwin P. Crosman.

Roughly its dimensions are, length - 33 ft; width - 18 ft; height - 9 ft. The split, nearly 13 inches in width runs lengthwise of the rock. It is clean cut and true as a die the entire length and depth with a graceful curve at one end.

It is nearly in the center of Hanson with a natural spring of water only a few feet from the rock. A dipper is chained to the rock with which to drink from the crystallike unfailing supply of cold water.

Nearby people of "the hill" found it a joy in dry seasons when their wells went dry. South Grammar School pupils delighted to carry their lunch there during the noon hour. Berry-pickers from Bill Thomas' blueberry pasture were greatly refreshed as they stopped there on the way home from a day of picking.

Charles Cushing made many entries in his diaries for the years 1858, '59, '60, '61 mentioning "Split Rock Spring" as a stopping place for a "cool drink of water" after a dusty walk to church or to the cemetery.

HANSON'S FIRST WOMAN VOTER

The first woman to brave a smoke filled room in order to cast a vote was Jane Howland.

When Jane walked into the hall, one by one, the feet came down from backs of chairs. It certainly took courage to cross that spittoon covered floor.

The next year she persuaded Georgianna Luther to go with her.

Thereafter, voting for school committee by women came more universal and spittoons began to disappear from the scene and smoking was relegated to the lower hall.

HENRY COBB

Mr. Cobb was born in Plympton February 3, 1832. He lived in Halifax during the early part of his life, afterwards moving to Hanson.

He followed the shoe trade until he was about sixty years old, making shoes by hand in his little shop until the shoe business was transferred to the larger factories, when he went to work for the Commonwealth Shoe and Leather Company in Whitman.

One day he had an argument with the foreman. The foreman said "What are you having - one of your fits coming on, Cobb?" "Yes," said Cobb, "and it feels to me like the d------ one I ever had." Mr. Cobb wasn't seen for dust in a shoe factory after that.

Some of the boys asked him if he hadn't anything to say when he was going out and these were his parting words.

"Old Cobb has lost his job,
He's neither bright nor witty,
He packed his kit almighty quick,
And left for Forest City."

Although Mr. Cobb lived within a stone's throw of the Congregational Church, he didn't go to church but once for over fifty years. However a more honest, upright and charitable man never walked the streets of Hanson.

FRANK BOURNE

A well known figure in North Hanson was Frank Bourne. He came to Hanson at the age of twelve and was identified with the town for more the seventy-five years.

He was a farmer and a progressive one for his day. Every year he planted a garden and if there was any new vegetable or flower to be had, he would secure it, delight in it, show it to his friends and share with them the product of his labors.

In 1877 Mr. Bourne was elected to the Board of Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the poor, where he served for several years.

South Hanson Fire Department

Horse drawn Vehicle

Bottom left: Edward Keene

Top left: Norman MacKenzie

Left to Right: Will Thayer
Angus MacLellan
Irving Bryant
Charles Burrell
Fred Brown
Ben Livermore
James Lowery
Sumner Josselyn
John Ibbitson, driver
Merritt Bates

John Ibbitson's horses, Fred and Dick

Early Motor Vehicle of the

Hanson Fire Dept.

Left to right
John Ibbitson, chief
Roderick McClellan
Arthur G. Brown
Ben Livermore
Irvin Bryant
Fred Brown, driver

The breaking up of the Moon Shine Still 1923

(Off Hudson St.)

Left to right:

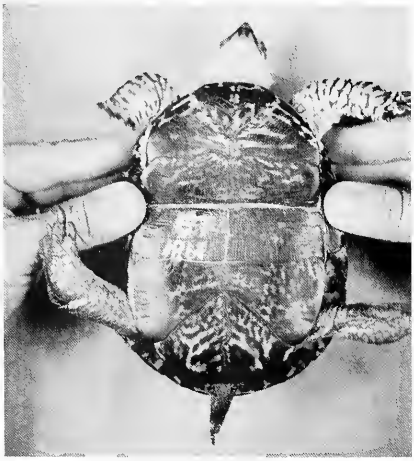
Chief Leroy Phinney of Whitman P.D., Chief John Ibbitson of Hanson P.D.,

Officer Fred R. Brown, Cyril Ibbitson, Franklin Phinney, Edwin Churchill

Womens Christian Temperance Union

(W. C. T. U.)3-level Drinking Fountain

Presently located at Pembroke Herring Run



This Early Hanson Resident (Box Turtle)

dated 100 years ago, returned to this native location

in time for the Civil War Centennial 1861 - 1961